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CREDITS

Japanese-Thai translated by
Chibi neko
Thai-English translated by
Chihaya
Proofread by Metu
Scanned & Edited by Akanee

This manga is to be read from Left to Right

Edo never sleeps

1

HONDA KEJKO

KO TETSU
Ahhh!
WHY ARE YOU SO CUTE!!?
ISN'T THE RED SATIN RIBBON JUST PERFECT FOR YOU!?
Yoshiwara,
Edo's hot and dangerous red light district, where love blazed dazzlingly through every window
During its 250 years of history, there was a record of at least 24 fire break-outs
LOOK!
but the burnt meadows are now camouflaged with flowers
IT'S USUGUMO-DAYUU OF MIURA BROTHEL AND HER ESCORTS!!
Oh!?
IS SHE THE ONE STEALING THE SPOTLIGHT AWAY FROM TAKAO-DAYUU!? THAT USUGUMO-CHAN?
(TRANSLATOR NOTE - DAYUU = HONORABLE SUFFIX FOR A HIGHEST-RANKED COURTESAN)

Red lipstick shimmering like a new-born fire.
Such a genius, Joz
ISN'T SHE ONLY 14-15 YEARS OLD
and suddenly it busted into flames !!
bump
OUCH!
SHE TURNS 14 THIS YEAR.
Quiet smile
OIRAN* !!
* OIRAN = A HIGH-CLASS COURTESAN

Yahh!
WHIZ
SFX:PHWWW
GNHHH
wahhh!
Mawww

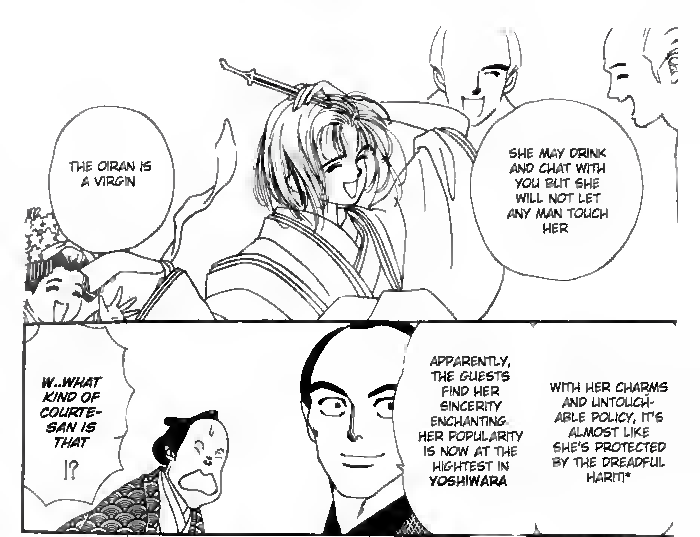
MRAOWWW!!
SFX
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
THAT GUY!
IT'S AMEMIYA SHISUMA HATAMOTO*, THE SAMURAI WHO WAS REJECTED BY THE OIRAN!
SNITTER
SNITTER
I WAS AN IDIOT FOR ALLOWING MYSELF TO BE FOOLED BY A SWEET SCENT OF HER HAIR
Ha! NO MATTER HOW GLAMOROUS, A COURTESAN IS A COURTESAN !!
KUT

* HATAMOTO = A RANK OF SAMURAI

Oiran!
YOU
ARE THE ONE BEING PRESUMPTUOUS THERE ARE THINGS SOMEONE LIKE YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO COMPREHEND
YOSHIWARA IS THE HEAVEN OF EVERYTHING ANYONE COULD WISH FOR!!
COMPARED TO YOU, YOSHIWARA IS BLESSED WITH HONEST EYES AND SINCERE SMILES.
IF YOU LOVE THE HAIR THAT MUCH, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU. YOU JERK OF A SAMURAI !!
SFX:CUT CUT CUT CUT
9

I, USUGUMO, A COURTESAN OF MIURA.
CAN A HEART BE CUT BY BLADE OR STOLEN BY FORCE?
MAY I PERISH UNDER A SAMURAI'S HAND,
BUT I WILL NOT SURRENDER MY HEART.
RE MEMBER THAT !!

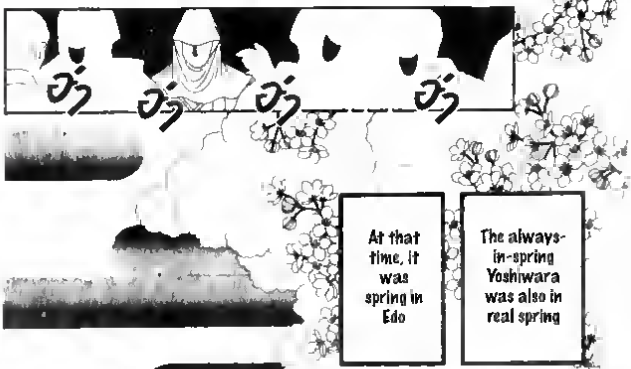
WELL SAID! JAPAN'S NO.1 OIRAN!
THANK YOU! YOSHIWARA DISTRICT IS WHERE I WAS BORN AND RAISED. I WON'T STAND ANYONE BAD MOUTHING MY HOME!
YOU'RE NOT SEEING THE LAST OF ME!!
TURN
Wow
UNCLE!
I AM COMPLETELY FASCINATED!
Y...YOUNG MASTER
I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH I HAVE TO PAY, USUGUMO WILL BE MINE
FORGET IT. PILE UP A MOUNTAIN OF GOLDEN COINS AND YOU WILL STILL NEVER GET TO SPEND A NIGHT WITH HER.
Huff
IS THE YOUNG MASTER OF EJISEN CHALLENGING ME?
NOT AT ALL, BUT USUGUMO IS ONE OF THE CHEEKIEST COURTESANS
OR MAYBE SHE ALREADY HAS A LOVER
!?

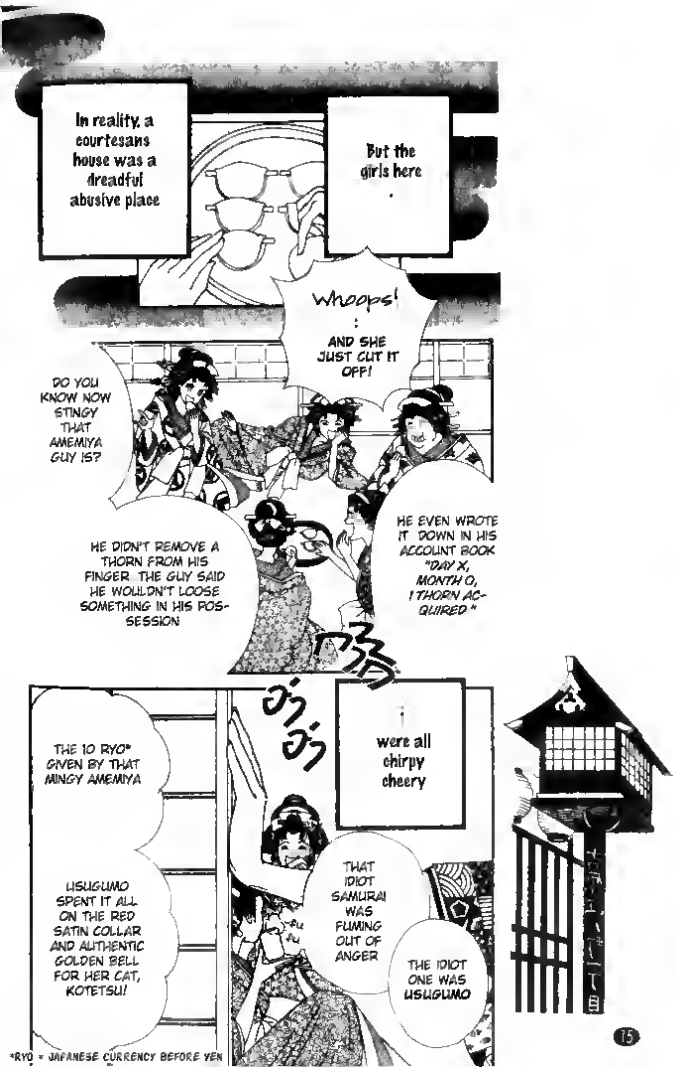

THE OIRAN IS A VIRGIN
SHE MAY DRINK AND CHAT WITH YOU BUT SHE WILL NOT LET ANY MAN TOUCH HER
W..WHAT KIND OF COURTE-SAN IS THAT !?
APPARENTLY, THE GUESTS FIND HER SINCERITY ENCHANTING. HER POPULARITY IS NOW AT THE HIGHTEST IN YOSHIWARA
WITH HER CHARMS AND UNTOUCH-ABLE POLICY, IT'S ALMOST LIKE SHE'S PROTECTED BY THE DREADFUL HARITI*

*HARITI = A BUDDHIST GODDESS WHO PROTECTS CHILDREN

SERIOUS LY...
IF SOMEONE MANAGES TO CAPTURE USUGUMO'S HEART,
MEN ALL OVER EDO WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP UNTIL THEY FIND OUT WHO THAT LUCKY GUY IS.

OIRAN! EVERYONE IN EDO IS DEBATING, WHO IS THE FAIRER, BETWEEN BENTENYAMA KIKUNOSUKE AND USUGUMO-DAYUU!
SHE'S A VAGABOND GEISHA WHO IS MAKING A CAMP AT SHINAGAWA
BEN TEN?
WHO?
Hmm
BENTEN ⋮ YAMA
KIKU NO SUKE?
Storyteller Name


At that time, it was spring in Edo
The always-in-spring Yoshiwara was also in real spring


In reality, a courtesans house was a dreadful abusive place
But the girls here
Whoops!
AND SHE JUST CUT IT OFF!
DO YOU KNOW HOW STINGY THAT AMEMIYA GUY IS?
HE DIDN'T REMOVE A THORN FROM HIS FINGER. THE GUY SAID HE WOULDN'T LOOSE SOMETHING IN HIS POSSESSION
HE EVEN WROTE IT DOWN IN HIS ACCOUNT BOOK "DAY X, MONTH O, 1 THORN ACQUIRED"
were all chirpy cheery
THE 10 RYO* GIVEN BY THAT MINGY AMEMIYA
USUGUMO SPENT IT ALL ON THE RED SATIN COLLAR AND AUTHENTIC GOLDEN BELL FOR HER CAT, KOTETSU!
THAT IDIOT SAMURAI WAS FUMING OUT OF ANGER
THE IDIOT ONE WAS USUGUMO

*RYO = JAPANESE CURRENCY BEFORE YEN

CUTTING OFF HER OWN HAIR, A WOMAN'S PRIDE FOR THAT SAMURAI SCUM
SORRY, SIR!!
This lady is Takao-dayuu, the no.1 of Miura Brothel.
FROM NOW ON, SHE HAS TO HIDE HER FACE...
WHISTLE?
WHISTLE
WHISTLE
DOWN STAIR
EXCELLENT.. NUDGE THE LEFT UP 1 SUN*
*1 SUN = 1.193 INCH
THERE, PERFECT!!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, USUGUMO!! ?
THIS IS NOT A THEATRE!
HOW IS THAT?
A REAL BEAUTY, RIGHT? I ASKED TOKUSAICHA RAKU-SENSEI TO PAINT IT FOR ME
TO HELP EVERY-ONE REMEMBER USUGUMO IN THE NEW HAIR-CUT
uhh
umm
WHATCHA THINK? THIS STYLE COULD BECOME POPULAR. VERY LIGHT AND CONVENIENT
NO NO NOOOO !!!
I WON'T LET YOU OUTSHINE THIS TAKAO!

DOES SENIORITY MEAN SOMETHING TO YOU!?
SENIORITY?
OH, LIKE PAYING RESPECT TO THE ELDERS?
SINCE YOU FLEW FROM THE SECOND FLOOR JUST TO SEE ME, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BIG SISTER TAKAO.
CHU!
23 YEARS OLD TODAY. MAY YOU FIND A HANDSOME HUNK REAL SOON
U.. USUGU MO!!
BYE BYE

.....
THE ONE WHO JUST SCAMPERED OFF. IS THAT LISUGUMO?
AOTO-SAMA!!
IT'S BECAUSE AOTO-SAMA SPOILED HER.
THAT SELF-CENTERED INSOLENT BRAT HAS BEEN HORSING AROUND ALL OVER YOSHIWARA
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THAT GIRL!?
SHE REMINDS ME OF MY 6-YEAR-OLD YUKIHIME I LEFT IN MY HOMETOWN
Oh YOUR LITTLE SISTER?
MY DOG.
Aoto Toichiro, a modern-medicine doctor, A.K.A. Toichiro, The unerring.
They said he can tell what a patient had with just one glance

IF USUGUMO IS NOT HERE, I SHOULD LEAVE
AOTO-SAMA!!
TAKAO -SAN
YES?
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU ARE NOT THAT YOUNG ANYMORE.
TODAY IS MY BIRTHDAY
WOULD YOU MIND STICKING AROUND FOR A LITTLE DRINK ?
I'LL LEAVE THIS MEDICINE FOR YOU PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO TAKE IT BEFORE YOU GO TO BED!
I TOLD YOU TO STOP USING LEAD-COMPONENT POWDER.
PROMISE !!?
YES
There it shows a scene from us

Whee!
WHAT A VIEW!!
WATCHING THE VIEW UP HIGH FROM HERE ALL THE WAY TO MT FUJI
WASHES AWAY MY FOUL MOODS EVERY-DAY, YOU KNOW, KOTETSU!?
MEOW
OH?
DID DR.AOTO SAY HE'LL COME BY TONIGHT?
FORGET HIM.
MAYBE I'LL JUST MISS APPOINT-MENTS A COUPLE OF TIMES JUST TO IRRITATE HIM.

MEOW
I KNOW DR. AOTO IS THE MOST AMIABLE AMONG MY GUESTS
HE NEVER USES HIS WEALTH TO MANIPULATE ME
GOOD LOOKING, POLITE, AND RICH.
RIGHT!
NEVER TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ME, NOT EVEN TRYING TO HOLD MY HAND
HE WOULD JUST BE THERE UNTIL MORNING
SMILING QUIETLY
AND LISTENING TO MY NONSENSE CHATTER

NOT THAT I AM NOT CONTENT WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE!!
DON'T GET ME WRONG, KOTETSU!
I WILL REMAIN HERE... IN YOSHIWARA
BECAUSE MY DEEPEST WISH HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED YET.
I WILL NOT FALL IN LOVE WITH ANYONE UNTIL ...
THAT WISH COMES TRUE
I'LL NOT LET MY HEART AND BODY BE TAINTED BY ANYONE

I'LL GIVE YOU EVERY-THING YOU WANT.
LET'S TALK ABOUT THINGS I DISLIKE.
I...IF YOU SPARE ME
THINGS I WANT..!?
FIRSTLY
THOSE SELFISH PIGS WHO FEED FROM THE POOR.
SECOND LY,
THOSE GREEDY FLIES WHO SWARM AROUND THEM.
AND LASTLY
YOU ARE !!
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT

FLUTTER
NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN MY FACE..
YOU MUST DIE.
THOSE BIGOTED FOOLS
WHO JUDGE ME UPON MY LOOK!!
No!
C.. CHRIST IAN CROSS!
Y..YOU ARE A PASTOR THIEF!!
Arrgghhh

มีทองเท่าหนวดกุ้ง

chink

นอนสะดุ้งจนเรือนไหว

KOTET SU
KOTET SU
WHICH WARE-HOUSE TONIGHT?
ONSHORE, SPEED 2. ABOUT RIGHT.
WHAT IS THE WINDS' DIREC-TION?
I AM AIMING FOR
SOME-THING MUCH GREATER
:
THIS TIME THE TARGET IS NEITHER MONEY NOR GOLD

SFX-WAKE UP
HUFF
A...
A WEIRD ONE
A DREAM?
I WAS A THIEF?
DEEP SLEEP
THIS KOTET SU
SMOKE SMOKE
WAS THAT PANTHER?
MUST BE THAT WESTERN HISTORY PICTURE BOOK DR.AOTO LENT ME FOR MY BEDTIME READING.
Ahh... a headache
IN MY DREAM, THE GREATER THING I WISHED TO STEAL
WHAT WAS THAT...?
USU GUMO

?
TOMORROW IS THE BIG DAY. RAINING OR NOT, THE SHOW MUST GO ON
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE BEAUTY CONTEST BETWEEN YOU AND KIKUNOSUKE OF COURSE!
ON THE BEHALF OF YOSHIWARA GIRLS, YOU MUST NOT LOSE!!
SFX:TADAA-A
WIN
WELCOME!! WELCOME!!
Beauty contest
Usugumo-dayuu VS Kikunosuke

Well... Well...
ON THIS AUSPICIOUS DAY AT MIURA BROTHEL, THE BEAUTY CONTEST BETWEEN LISUGUMO, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF YOSHIWARA DISTRICT
AND KIKUNOSUKE-SAN, A VAGABOND GEISHA OF SHINAGAWA, WILL BEGIN RIGHT THIS MINUTE
THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A SANDALWOOD HANDHELD MIRROR FROM EJIGO SHOP,
CORAL EMBROIDED CEREMONIAL GOWN FROM YUKI SHOP, AND SEA-TURTLE SHELL COMB FROM NARA SHOP
WHY AM I NOT THE REPRESENTATIVE OF YOSHIWARA! ?
T. TAKAO-SAN ⋮
I'LL RUIN THIS STUPID CONTEST!
PLEASE.. LISUGUMO MIGHT NOT WIN, ANYWAY...
RIGHT
HMM.. IF LISUGUMO LOSES, HER REPUTATION WILL BE TARNISHED!
AND PEOPLE WILL SOON REALIZE THAT SEXY TAKAO WITH A GROWN-UP CHARM
IS FAR MORE SUPERIOR!!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
I AM NOT ENTERING A FREAK SHOW!

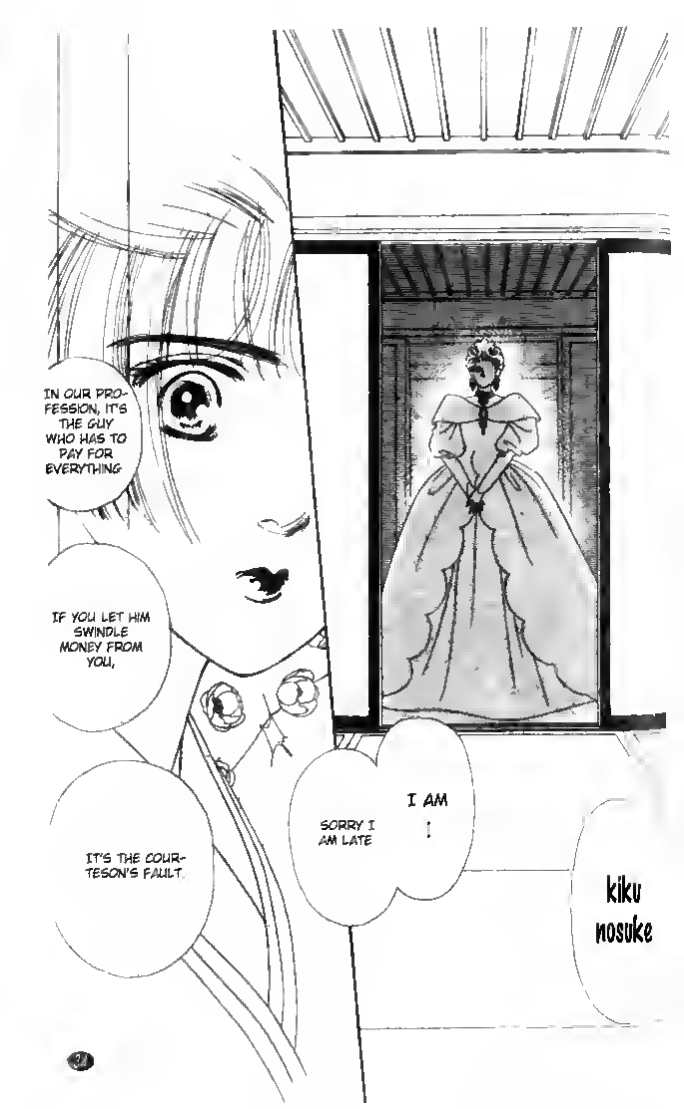
GO USUGU MO GO!
SHOW THEM WHAT YOSHIWARA GIRLS ARE MADE OF.
OH, DOCTOR AOTO.
ROJUU*-SAN OF KAGA-HAN**
I HAD NO IDEA YOU ENJOY THIS KIND OF ENTERTAINMENT
WELL.. MY MASTER'S HEALTH HASN'T IMPROVED.
I'M AVAILABLE TO SEE HIM ANYTIME, BUT MY MEDICAL FEE IS 100 RYO
ONE.. ONE HUNDRED RYO!!
ISN'T 100 RYO A LITTLE TOO STEEP FOR CURING ATHLETE'S FOOT DISEASE?
I HEARD YOU OFTEN GIVE AWAY MEDICINE TO THE POOR AND THE PROSTITUTES FOR FREE
Please reread sideways
THEN YOU SHOULD FIND SOME OTHER DOCTORS

*ROJUU = A HIGH RANKED SERVANT IN A WARRIOR FAMILY

** HAN = THE FIEFS OF FEUDAL LORDS OF JAPAN. ROUGHLY EQUALS TO A PROVINCE.

ANYWAY
KIKUNO SUKE IS AWFULLY LATE...
USUGUMO -CHAN, USUGUMO -CHAN!!
GOKURAKU DO IS HERE AS ONE OF THE JUDGES.
HE PROMISED KIKYOU-SAN TO MARRY HER BY NEW YEAR.
BUT HE NEVER DID AND TOOK OFF WITH HER 300 RYO.
HOW DARE HE SHOW HIS FACE HERE AGAIN!?
LET ME TAKE CARE OF HIM.
THAT ONE?
GOKURAKU DO-SAN
WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ROOTING FOR THIS TIME?

OF COURSE, IT'S OIRAN & MY SHOP IS A SPONSOR TOO, YOU KNOW
SFX FU FU FU FU FU
Oh
I'M TOUCHED.
FU FU
THEN I'D LIKE TO REQUEST FOR
YOUR LOVELY SCALP, ALRIGHT?
OH! CERTAINLY!
OIRAN'S WISH IS MY COMMAND!
What a jerkass man you are.
BUT IF I WIN,
I'D LIKE SOMETHING ELSE FROM YOU MORE THAN THE PRIZE
SFX WRITE WRITE
GO, GOKURA KUDO-SAN!
RE SERVED


IN OUR PROFESSION, IT'S THE GUY WHO HAS TO PAY FOR EVERYTHING
IF YOU LET HIM SWINDLE MONEY FROM YOU,
IT'S THE COURTESON'S FAULT.
SORRY I AM LATE
I AM !
kiku nosuke

Pasha
SFX. OOH AHH
DOCTOR, WHAT KIND OF COSTUME IS THIS?
IT'S AN EUROPIAN PRINCESS'S GOWN CALLED Dress
THUMP
THUMP

SFX: CHATTER CHATTER
WHO IS SHE?
THIS IS NO ORDINARY GEISHA!
INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL!!
FIRST CONTEST IS THE COSTUMES
USUGUMO -CHAN!?
DON'T JUST SIT THERE DUMB-FOUNDED

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, USUGUMO-CHAN!
WHAT IS THIS?
ALMOST LIKE AN ANESTHESIA
IT'S NOT JUST HER BEAUTY
BUT HER EYES
WHY?
THUMP
MY BREATHE BECOME
THUMP
AND IN MY CHEST...
THUMP
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
I'VE EVER FELT LIKE THIS
THUMP
THE OUTCOME SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, USUGUMO
THEIR POINTS ARE STILL EQUAL, TAKAO-SAN
AND WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO WAKA POEM, GOTO PERFORMANCE, STORY TELLING, FLOWER ARRANGEMENT, AND TEA CEREMONY
WEREN'T YOU ALL STUNNED BY KIKUNOSUKE'S BEAUTY A MINUTE AGO?

NO MATTER HOW YOU TRY,
A DUMB VIRGIN LIKE YOU CAN NEVER MAKE A SHINING STAR
MAKING THE GUESTS PAY, BUT NOT ALLOWING ANY PHYSICAL CONTACT. YOU ARE NOT CUT OUT FOR A COURTESAN'S LIFE!
IN MY OPINION, WHAT WE OFFER TO THE GUESTS WHO ARE EXHAUSTED FROM WORK ARE NOT ONLY OUR BODIES
YOUR DISDAINFUL TONE IS EFFECTIVE ONLY WHEN YOU STILL HAVE THIS BABY FACE
SOMEDAY YOU WILL REGRET YOU DIDN'T ENJOY LIFE TO ITS FULLEST
I WANT TO START A NEW ERA
WHERE WOMEN HAVE A CHOICE TO BE FREE FROM THIS KIND OF THOUGHT
MY MOM DIED IN AGONY HERE BECAUSE SHE WAS EXPLOITED BY MEN'S SELFISHNESS
THIS IS HOW I'M GOING TO AVENGE HER DEATH

SMART-MOUTH BRAT!!
WITHERING OLD HAG!
What did you say!!?
SCUFFLE
TAKAO-SAN!
He teased me, ugly!
Takeo-san, you're drunk
USUGUMO-CHAN, HURRY AND GO GET READY FOR THE NEXT ROUND.
MOM!
SFX: BANG THUD

SEE THE WEALTHY NEVER CLOSE THEIR EYES IN PEACE
THIS SONG!?
SWEET HEART
THE WORLD DOESN'T CHANGE WITH JUST AN IDEALISTIC THOUGHT.

I'M HERE ONLY FOR THE PRIZES SPONSORED BY THOSE WEALTHY SHOP OWNERS
ALL GOOD STUFF
!
THAT'S MY MOM'S PILL-BOX!
K KIKUNOSUKE-SAN
WHEN DID YOU TAKE IT!? I ALWAYS CARRY IT WITH ME..
A CROSS
I SEE. YOUR MOTHER WAS A CHRISTIAN.

GIVE IT BACK!!
SFX THUMP THUMP
LISUGUMO, YOU IDIOT! THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BE
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT
A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN LIKE YOU HAD STICKY FINGERS
AH THAT HURTS
I WAS AIMING FOR SOMETHING MUCH GREATER
WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME?

SFX:PUSH
DON'T
DON'T STARE AT ME WITH THOSE EYES
DON'T GET ANY CLOSER
H HOW INSOLENT
No!
EH!?
BLOND HAIR
HN HN IT'S OK TO BE FRIGHTENED
BUT WATCH ME
SOON, BY THE TIME THE PLUMS ARE BLOOMING
EVERYONE IN EDO WILL BE TALKING ABOUT NOTHING BUT ME

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BENTEN-
KOSO
KIKU-
NOSUKE
The famous
phan-
tom
thief

A MAN!?
IS ME!!

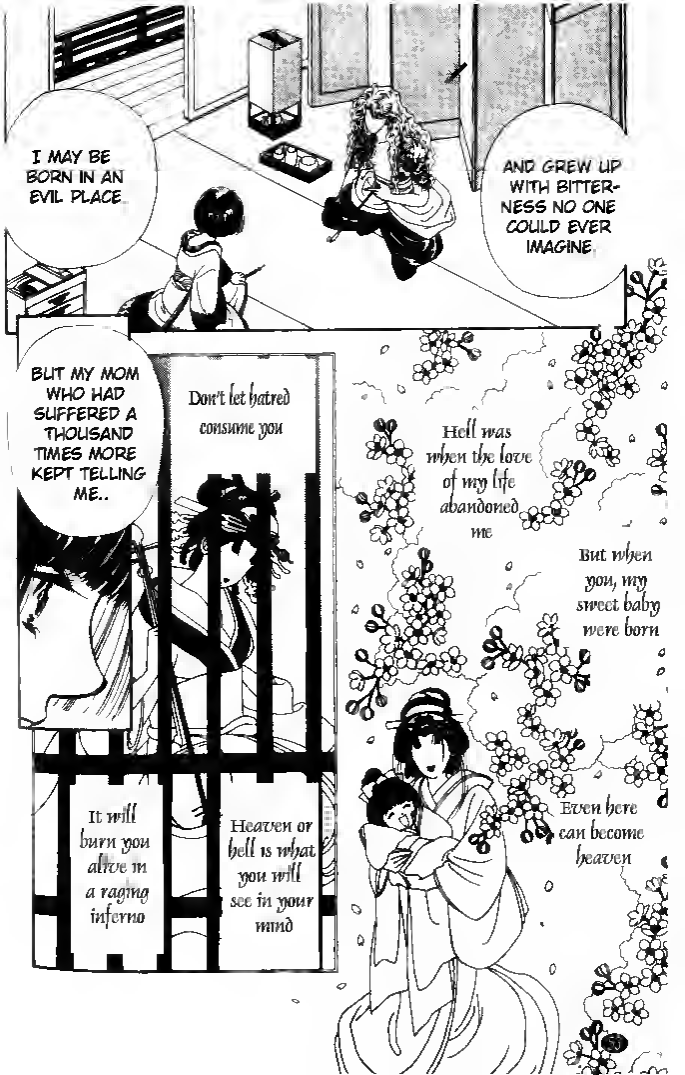
Thud
HN!
WHAT'S WITH THAT EXPRESSION?
ARE YOU SCARED, OIRAN?
KIKUNO-SUKE
HN..
A MAN.
OR A DEMON ...
chink
YOU ARE .. A MAN?
IT IS NO SURPRISE.
JUST ONE GLIMPSE, AND PEOPLE QUIVER BEFORE ME LIKE I AM A REINCARNATION OF A DEMON.

FEEL ME AND FIND OUT.
GRAB
W...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU MAY BE YOSHI-WARA'S NO.1 RIGHT NOW.
BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH FOR YOU AND YOUR MOTHER
BY LAWS, ALL CHRISTIAN WOMEN ARE TO BE SOLD TO BROTHELS.
YOUR MOTHER MUST BE A CHRISTIAN CONVERT.

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN ME, OIRAN?
YOU WILL NOT REFUSE ME ...
FOR I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES...
Aggravated
LET'S TEACH A LESSON TO THIS PRETENTIOUS IDEALSOCIETY FULL OF GREED AND MATERIALISM.
GRAB

AIM
THROW
THUD

Whistle
NEXT TIME IT'LL BE THE DRAGON'S EYE ON YOUR BODY!
.....
STAY AWAY FROM ME, KIKUNO-SUKE.


I MAY BE BORN IN AN EVIL PLACE
AND GREW UP WITH BITTERNESS NO ONE COULD EVER IMAGINE
BUT MY MOM WHO HAD SUFFERED A THOUSAND TIMES MORE KEPT TELLING ME..
Don't let hatred consume you
It will burn you alive in a raging inferno
Heaven or hell is what you will see in your mind
Hell was when the love of my life abandoned me
But when you, my sweet baby were born
Even here can become heaven

THAT'S WHY..
I'M DETER-MINED TO LIVE EVERY-DAY IN DELIGHT.
EVEN THOUGH
I STILL DESPISE MY FATHER WHOSE FACE I'VE NEVER KNOWN.
BUT I WILL NOT STOP AS LOW AS TO BE CONSORTING MYSELF WITH A THIEF.
PUT DOWN MY MOM'S PILLBOX AND GET OUT OF HERE.
USU-GUMO
ARE YOU REA..
KYA!!

TAD
KYAAA
KYAAA!!
TAD
SOME-
BODY
HELP!!
startle
STAND UP
YOU..
YOU ARE
NOT GIVING
UP?

STAB ME.
I SAID STAB ME.
HERE
HUH?
YOUR HAND IS SHAKING. YOU ARE NOT CAPABLE OF IT.
EH?
ฉึก

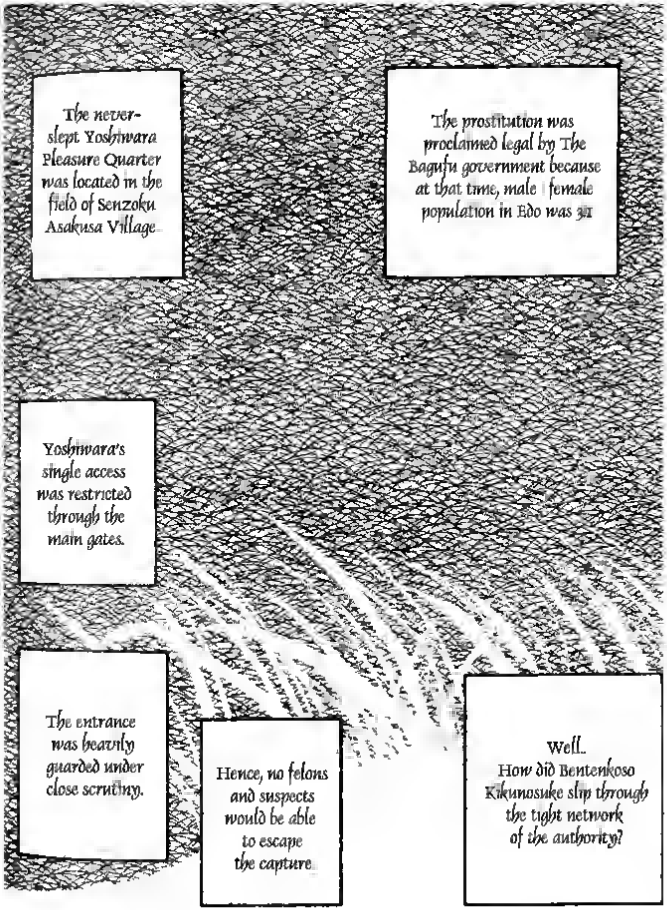
Sfx: Stab

DRIP
DRIP
LET ME TELL YOU SOME-THING.
I'VE BEEN EYEING YOU SINCE 2 YEARS AGO.
USUGUMO
I WILL NOT GIVE UP ON YOU.

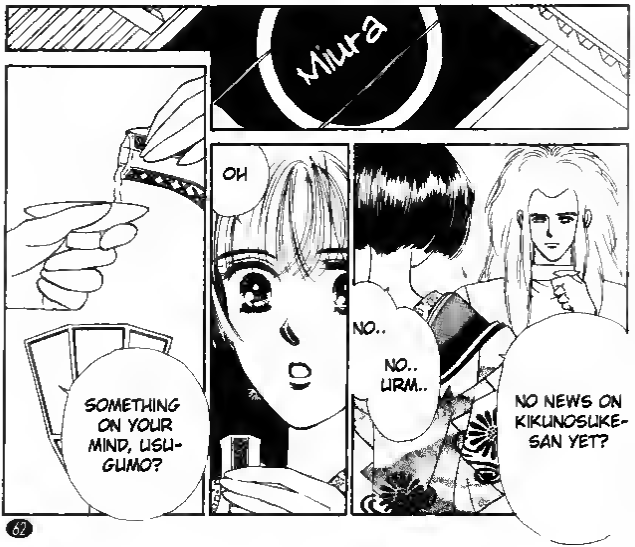
I.. IT'S GONE!!
S..SOMEBODY HELP!
T..THERE IS A MONSTER IN USUGUMO'S DRESSING ROOM!
USUGUMO!
EVERYONE LISTEN!
THE PRIZES ARE GONE! EVERYTHING!
WHAT!?
WHAT!
HOW IS OIRAN!? SHE IS ALRIGHT?
OH MY DEAR! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

AHH!!
TAKAO-SAN
I..I SAW SOMEONE JUMPING UP TO THE ROOF!!
HE MUST BE THE THIEF WHO TOOK ALL THE PRIZES!
A THIEF? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE!?
IT'S WHOLE BODY SHINING IN GOLD.
MAYBE A MONKEY DEMON.
IT MUST BE A MONSTER.

I..
I WILL NOT GIVE UP ON YOU
THE ONLY TRACE THAT MAY LEAD TO FATHER..
MOM..
I'LL DEFINITELY GET YOUR PILLBOX BACK.


The never-slept Yoshiwara Pleasure Quarter was located in the field of Senzoku Asakusa Village.
The prostitution was proclaimed legal by The Bagufu government because at that time, male : female population in Edo was 3:1
Yoshiwara's single access was restricted through the main gates.
The entrance was heavily guarded under close scrutiny.
Hence, no felons and suspects would be able to escape the capture.
Well..
How did Bentenkoso Kikunosuke slip through the tight network of the authority?

ENOUGH?
SHINK
WOW!
THEN YOU'D BETTER MAKE SURE IT'S A BIG SCENE.
HEH HEH..
ROGER THAT.
ARE YOU PAYING US THIS MUCH?
AND THE MIURA BROTHEL IN PUBLIC.
FOR HUMILLIATING USUGUMO


Miura
OH
O
SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND, USUGUMO?
NO..
NO.. URM..
NO NEWS ON KIKUNOSUKE-SAN YET?

WELL.. THEY SAID
ALL THE PRIZES WERE STOLEN ON THE DAY OF THE BEAUTY CONTEST.
THE NEWS MUST BE ROARING ALL OVER EDO BY NOW.
YES
BUT IT WORKED, DIDN'T IT?
THUMP THUMP
EH?
CRANK
HEY!
GET THE OWNER TO TALK TO US!!
THUD
!?
KICK
WE'RE SORRY.
TERRIBLY SORRY.
NOW YOU APOLOGIZE!?

I'M GONNA KILL YOU!!
KYA!!
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE NOISE?
THAT SLUT PUT A DEAD BUG IN MY SAKE CUP!
AND HERE! LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE!
IS THIS HOW MIURA BROTHEL IS TREATING A GUEST?
YOUR REPUTATION IS ALL LIES!
H..
HUMAN HAIR!!
.. GAHH
AMEMIYA SHISUMA MUST HAVE HIRED YOU.

AND.. AND I ONLY PUT IN TAI-FISH SOUP.
USUGUMO, I DIDN'T PUT IN A DEAD BUG.
AH-HAH.. ARE YOU USUGUMO-OIRAN?
YOU'RE QUICK, USUGUMO-SAN OF YOSHIWARA'S 5-TH DISTRICT
YOU ARE PREPARED TO PAY FOR THIS BY YOURSELF, RIGHT?
THEN..
YOUR TARGET IS ME.
STOP FRAMING UP THE GIRLS AND MIURA WITH YOUR FILTHY SCHEME!!
LET US SHAVE YOUR HEAD!!
USU-GUMO-CHAN!!

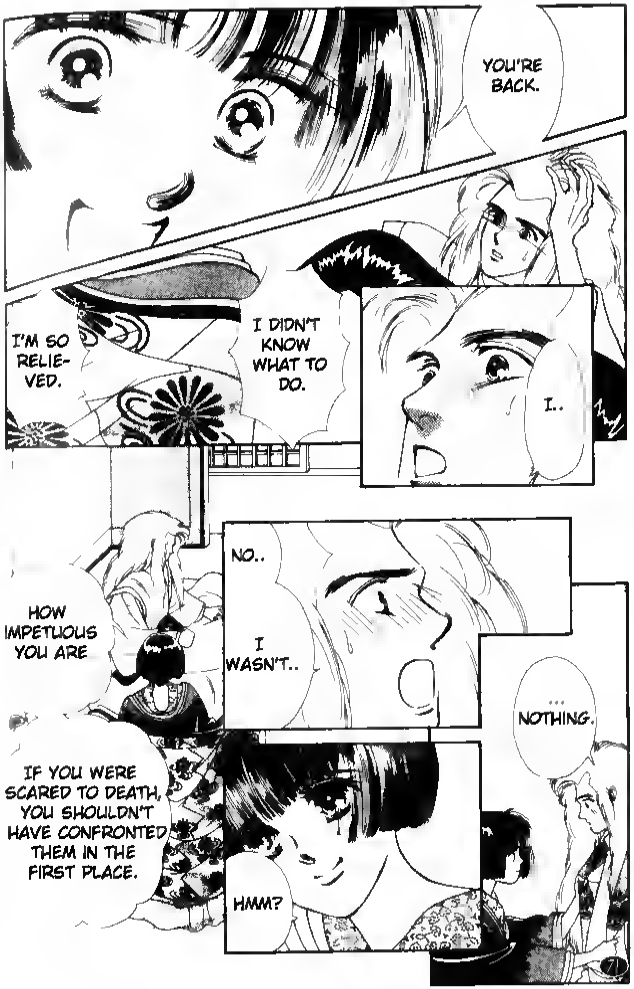
UHH..
ALRIGHT ...
..Y
YOU
U..USU-GUMO-CHAN
WANNA SHAVE MY HEAD? GO AHEAD, SCOUNDRELS!!
OIRAN

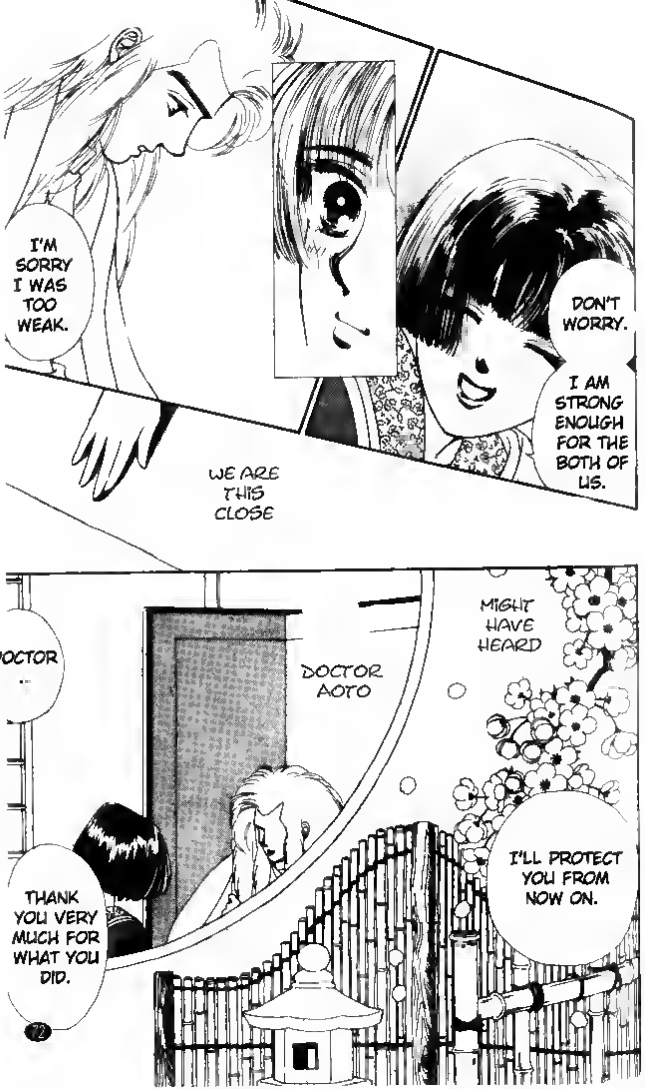
MY NAME IS AOTO TOICHIRO. I AM A MODERN MEDICINE DOCTOR.
USUGUMO IS AN IGNORANT 14 YEAR OLD CHILD. WHAT SHE DID, SHE DID OUT OF BENIGHTEDNESS.
THEREFORE, I APOLOGIZE ON HER BEHALF. PLEASE REMOVE YOUR BLADES.

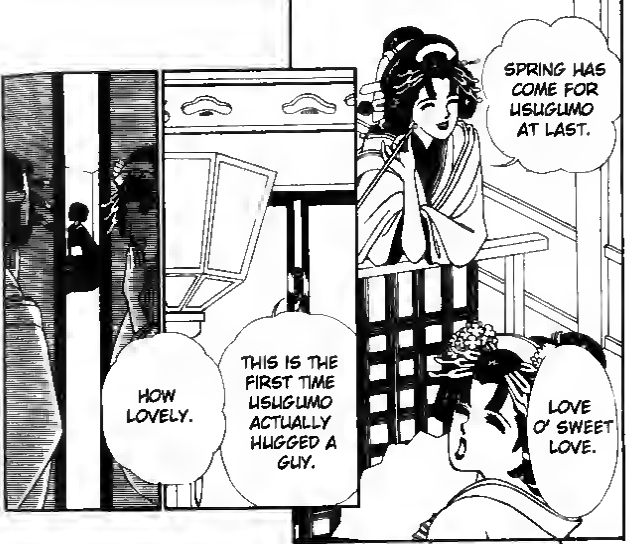
HA HA HA HA
HOW ASTOUNDING!!
WHO WOULD HAVE BELIEVED EDO'S LOFTY FAMOUS DOCTOR WOULD EVER BOW HIS HEAD JUST FOR A MERE COURTESAN.
DOCTOR!!
PLEASE STOP!
THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
WOULD YOU REMOVE YOUR BLADES?
CRACK CRACK CRACK
PALE
CHILLY SMILE
PLEASE..?

PALE
THE MAT
..BROKE.
I.. I SEE.
SINCE YOU ARE BOWING AND BEGGING SO GRACIOUSLY.
HEY
HE'S JUST A WIMP.
HE DIDN'T EVEN DRAW A SWORD
But they fled anyway
A SIMPLE DAGGER AND HE QUIVERED BEFORE US.
THAT GUY WOULD SURELY FAINT AT A SIGHT OF BLOOD
HUG
THEY WILL FLAUNT AROUND
YOU'RE SUCH A FOOL!!
TRASHING YOUR REPUTATION!!
DOC-TOR!!

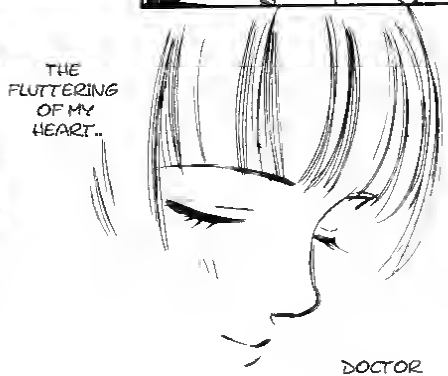
D..
DOCTOR!?
DOC-
TOR
IDIOT!!
DOCTOR


YOU'RE BACK.
I..
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I'M SO RELIEVED.
NO..
I WASN'T..
...NOTHING.
HMM?
IF YOU WERE SCARED TO DEATH, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE CONFRONTED THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE.
HOW IMPETUOUS YOU ARE


I'M SORRY I WAS TOO WEAK.
DON'T WORRY.
I AM STRONG ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF US.
WE ARE THIS CLOSE
DOCTOR ..
DOCTOR AOTO
MIGHT HAVE HEARD
I'LL PROTECT YOU FROM NOW ON.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR WHAT YOU DID.


SPRING HAS COME FOR USUGUMO AT LAST.
LOVE O' SWEET LOVE.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME USUGUMO ACTUALLY HUGGED A GUY.
HOW LOVELY.

CUT THE CRAP!!


THE FLUTTERING OF MY HEART..
DOCTOR AOTO PROBABLY HEARD IT..

HE'S DONE IT AGAIN!
THE SPOOKING THIEF THAT SHOOK EDO!!
LAST NIGHT, OUMI SHOP RESIDENCE WAS ASSAULTED. THE INTRUDER SLAUGHTERED EVERYONE FROM CLERKS TO MAIDS.
AND SWEPT ALL GOLD COINS AND ACCESSORIES.
THE PHANTOM OF THE NIGHT.
ITS BODY WAS SHINING BRIGHT LIKE A FLAME.
A MAN, A WOMAN, OR A MONSTER!!

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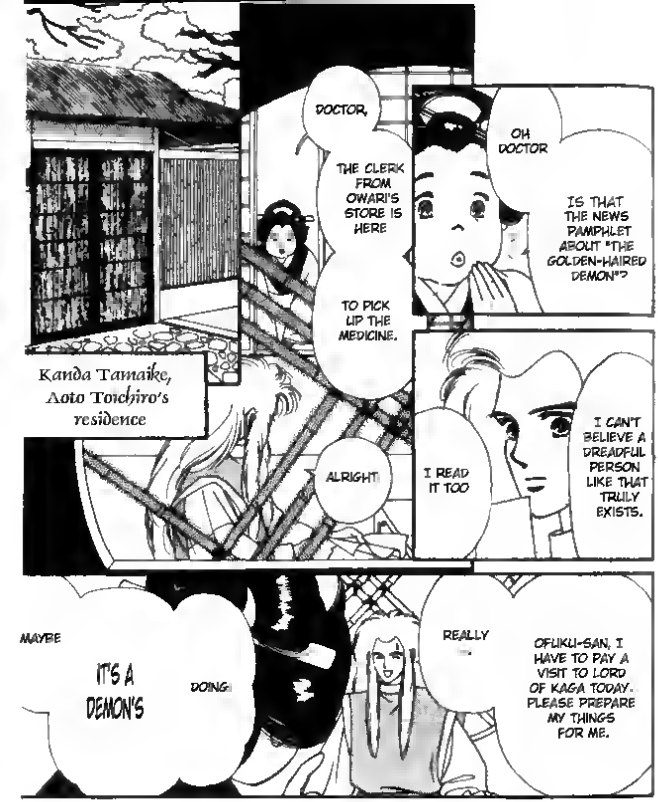
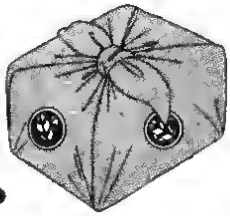

Kanda Tamaike, Aoto Toichiro's residence
DOCTOR,
THE CLERK FROM OWARI'S STORE IS HERE
TO PICK UP THE MEDICINE.
ALRIGHT!
OH DOCTOR
IS THAT THE NEWS PAMPHLET ABOUT "THE GOLDEN-HAIRED DEMON"?
I READ IT TOO
I CAN'T BELIEVE A DREADFUL PERSON LIKE THAT TRULY EXISTS.
OFUKU-SAN, I HAVE TO PAY A VISIT TO LORD OF KAGA TODAY. PLEASE PREPARE MY THINGS FOR ME.
REALLY
MAYBE
IT'S A DEMON'S
DOING.



DOCTOR
I CAME BY TO PICK UP YOUNG MISTRESS'S MEDICINE AS USUAL
I HAVE IT READY HERE
CLERK
I SEE
OPEN
The princess is in perfect condition.
THANK YOU SIR.
OH RECENTLY, THERE HAS BEEN A RUMOR OF AN EPIDEMIC

YOUNG MISTRESS IS PRONE TO ILLNESS. HOPEFULLY NO INSECTS WILL BRING HER ANY HARM.
WE TRUST HER WELL-BEING IN YOUR GOOD HANDS
I UNDERSTAND
AOTO-SAMA!
IS DOCTOR AOTO IN?
I'M FROM KAMIYASHIKI* OF KAGA-HAN. I'M HERE TO GIVE YOU A TRANSPORT.
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.
A CLERK FROM OWARI'S SHOE STORE IS PICKING UP THE REFILL FOR THEIR YOUNG MISTRESS
FINE.
MAKE IT QUICK THEN
SIT
TEA, SIR.
EH?
DOES OWARI STORE OWNER HAVE A DAUGHTER?

*Kamiyashiki = A castle/manor of a high-ranked Hatamoto or a Daimyo.

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HURRY.
MASTER IS WAITING.
P.. PLEASE WAIT!!
IS THE PERSON IN THE PALANQUIN AOTO-SAMA,
THE MODERN-MEDICINE DOCTOR!?
DOCTOR AOTO, PLEASE COME WITH ME, I BEG YOU!
MY FATHER.. MY FATHER..
HE'S DYING!!

LAD, TAKE YOUR IMPERTINENCE ELSEWHERE OR DON'T CALL ME MERCILESS!
PLEASE HOLD ON. MY FATHER IS DYING RIGHT NOW!
PLEASE DOCTOR! MY FAMILY IS SO POOR THAT NO OTHER DOCTOR WOULD TOUCH HIM.
THE DOCTOR IS ON HIS WAY TO KAGA-HANS' MANOR.
AOTO-SAMA IS MY ONLY HOPE!
SIR SAMURAI OF KAGA-HAN, PLEASE, I BEG OF YOU.
SLASH
ALRIGHT CHILD

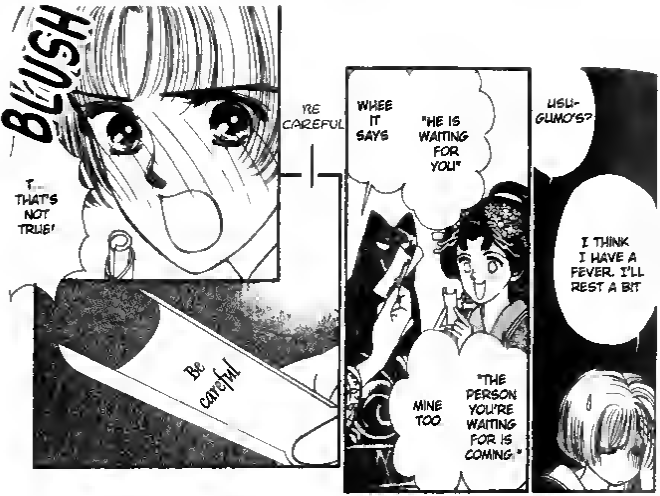
ROLL
ROLL
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME.
START MOVING
...
WAIT.

ROJUU-SAN
ALL OF HIS SERVANTS ARE TO WASH THEMSELVES THOROUGHLY FROM HEAD TO TOES.
PLEASE INFORM YOUR MASTER
THAT HIS ATHLETE'S FOOT DISEASE IS CONTAGIOUS.
AOTO-SAMA!
I... I'M FINE.
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT MY FATHER...
AOTO-SAMA!!
IGNORE
SONNY, YOUR WOUND IS NOT DEEP. I'LL STOP THE BLOOD AND PUT ON SOME ANTI-SEPTIC FOR YOU
I GOT IT. WHERE IS YOUR HOUSE?

At Kamiyashiki of Kaga-Han
WHAT!? THEN ACTO JUST TOOK OFF WITH THAT BOY!?
YES SIR.
GAHH
HE'S GOT SOME NERVE.
DEMANDING INCREDULOUS MEDICAL FEE, SPEAKING IN A LOFTILY ARROGANT MANNER. I NEVER LIKED THE GUY
SHOULD WE MAKE HIM SIGN A CONTRACT?
NO TOO BAD THAT INSOLENT DOCTOR IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CURE MY CHRONIC DISEASE
NO OTHER DOCTOR IS AS GOOD AS HIM

BUT I WISH I HAD A CHANCE TO TEACH THAT BASTARD A LESSON
WELL...
OH.
RIGHT!
I'VE GOT A BRILLIANT IDEA, MY LORD
WHISPER
AOTO IS CLOSELY ACQUAINTED WITH AN OIRAN NAMED USUGUMO AT MIURA BROTHEL IN YOSHIWARA
AND I THOUGHT HE WAS A MAN OF CHARACTER.
HE IS HIGHLY ATTENTIVE TO HER.
SO IF YOU WANT TO ..
I HAVE HEARD OF USUGUMO'S REPUTATION
THAT SHE IS QUITE A DELECTABLE YOUNG LADY
HMM..
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I WHISK HER AWAY

ROMANCE QUESTIONS,
ANY QUESTIONS,
ASK TSUJIURA
This is a street Tsujiura seller
Tsujiura is a short fortune-telling note inside a senbei cracker
The notes are mostly about love matters.
TSUJI URA!
AHA!
GIVE ME ONE TOO!
O-OH.. I WONDER WHAT KIND OF QUESTION UGUIUMO IS ASKING.
ONE MORE PLEASE
IT MUST BE ABOUT DOCTOR AOTO, WHAT ELSE!


BLUSH
T... THAT'S NOT TRUE!
BE CAREFUL
BE CAREFUL
WHEE IT SAYS
"HE IS WAITING FOR YOU"
MINE TOO
"THE PERSON YOU'RE WAITING FOR IS COMING."
USU-GUMO'S?
I THINK I HAVE A FEVER. I'LL REST A BIT

CHIRP
CHIRP
WHAT?
TRYING TO CATCH A BIRD AGAIN, KOTETSU?
I TOLD YOU TO GIVE UP. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO CATCH THEM.
PSHAW! "BE CAREFUL"?
WHAT SHOULD I BE CAREFUL OF?

I DON'T NEED ANY STUPID WARNINGS
BUT IF IT'S FOR DOCTOR AOTO...
THE DESTINATION OF LOVE MAY BE FULL OF AWAITED DANGERS
SNEAK
SNEAK
ATTACK
!!
OH..
HUFF
NOT AGAIN!

IM...
IMPO-SSIBLE
KOTET-SU?
JUST A SECOND AGO
It's probably
just a dream, but someday.
MY EARS MUST HAVE PLAYED A TRICK ON ME.
YOU DIDN'T JUST SAY "NOT AGAIN", DID YOU?
ROLL
MEOW
ROLL
I MUST HAVE GONE DELUSIONAL.
HOW CAN A CAT SPEAK HUMAN LANGUAGE!
UHH... USUGUMO-CHAN!

OWNER?
WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
I'M SORRY BUT PLEASE COME WITH ME.
WHAT!? RANSOM ME!?
LORD OF KAGA .?
WANTS TO PAY THE RANSOM FOR MY CONTRACT?

WE DO NOT DOUBT YOUR GENEROSITY.
E .EVEN THOUGH YOU SAID SO ..
BUT USUGUMO IS THE PRIMA OF YOSHIWARA 5TH DISTRICT.
I'LL PAY OFF OIRAN MOTHER'S DEBT AND ADD SOME MORE
MONEY IS NOT A PROBLEM. FOR ME I'M WILLING TO MATCH MIURA BROTHEL'S PRICE NO MATTER HOW MUCH
EJISEN KAGA, FIEFDOM 1 MILLION KOKU*.

*Koku = unit of measurement in Japanese feudal system. 1 koku historically defined as enough rice to feed one person for one year

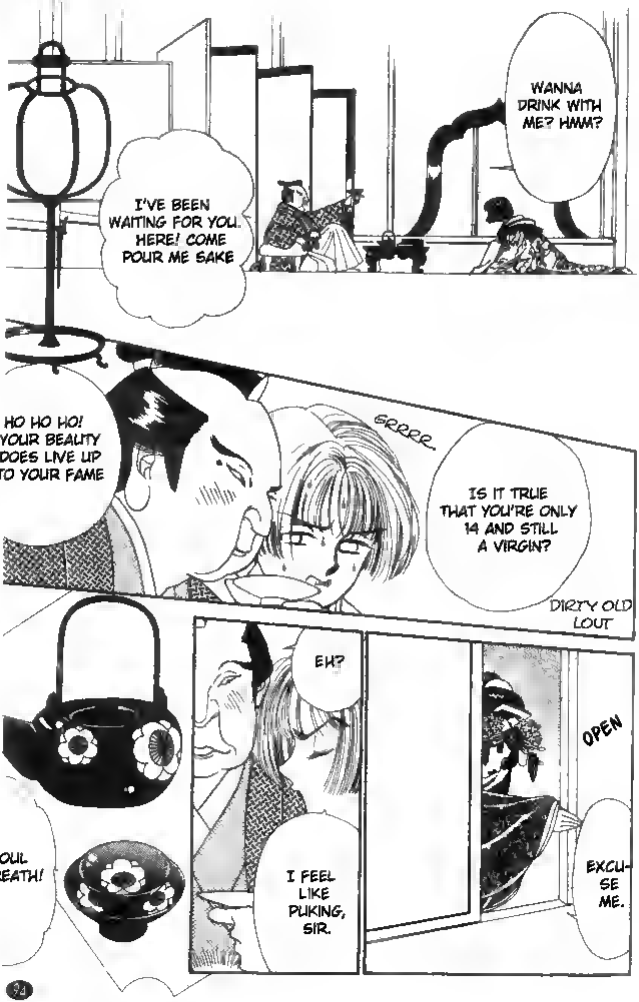
FOR THE COURTESANS ENDURING THEIR HARDSHIP WHILE HIDING THEIR GRIEVING TEARS,
AND HER PRESENCE
THE RADIANCE OF USUGUMO'S SMILES LIFTS THEIR SPIRITS AND GIVES THEM COURAGE.
HAS BROUGHT LIGHT AND LAUGHERS TO THIS SO-CALLED HOUSE OF EVIL.

HENCE,
YOU ARE NOT GOING TO SELL HER?
ALRIGHT! I'LL RANSOM USUGUMO WITH AN EQUAL WEIGHT OF GOLD.
I DEEPLY APOLOGIZE, SIR
THAT WON'T DO!!
SIR!!
DON'T YOU DARE PLAYING ME!!
A COURTESAN WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR MONEY!
YOU CANNOT REFUSE THAT.
PREPARE THE SCALE!
U. USU-GUMO..

HOW ANNOYING!
SEW IN AS MANY LEAD SHEETS INSIDE THE KIMONO AS YOU CAN.
THAT WILL ADD AT LEAST 50 KANS*
Lead-sewn ribbon
INTIMIDATING US TO A CORNER WITH HIS POWER!!
60 KANS. THAT'S 15,000 RYO.
HA
HA
HA
HA
Free-hulled Oban**
Mochi brand rice cakes with red bean paste
THIS PETTY AMOUNT OF MONEY, I CAN EARN IT ANYTIME.
NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE WEALTH OF KAGA--HAN!!
IF YOU HAVE THAT MUCH GOLD, BRING IT ON, STUPID OLD MAN!!
FINE! YOU'LL SEE!!
SPLENDID, BRING THE MONEY.
HA
HA
HA
HA

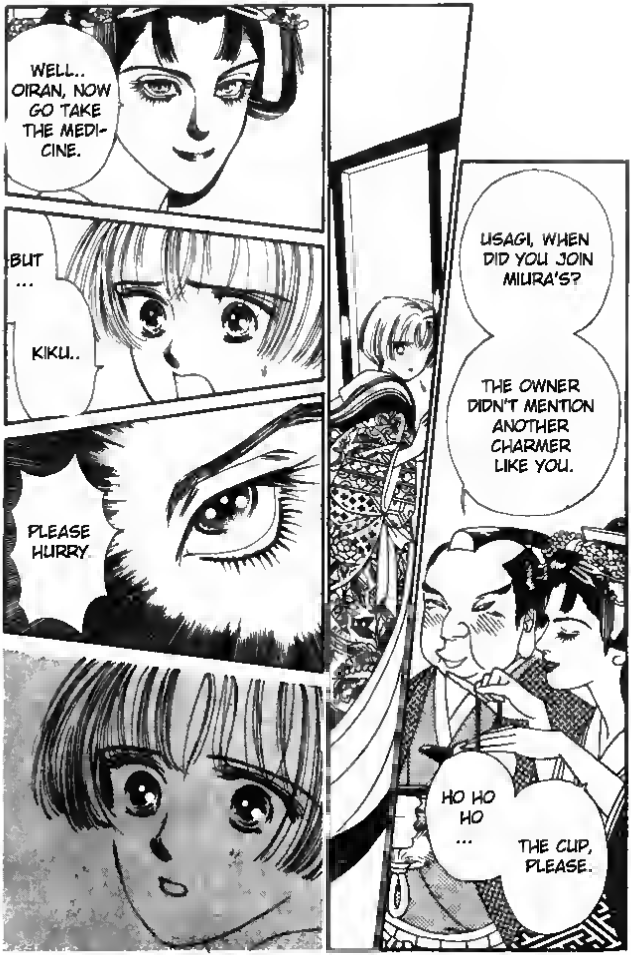
*Kan = Unit of mass measurement 60kans = 413 37 pounds
**Daimyo = The highest rank of feudal rulers

WHAT DO WE DO, OIRAN?
IF WE DEFY THIS EGOISTIC DAIMYO,
WHO KNOWS WHAT HE MIGHT INFLICT UPON THE BROTHEL AND THE OWNER.
LET'S TEACH A LESSON
TO THIS GREEDY MATERIALISTIC SOCIETY.
KIKUNOSUKE. I'LL FIGHT THIS ALONE
THIS IS MY OWN BATTLE!
WILL USUGUMO BE ALRIGHT?
SHE'S GONE
I'LL INFORM DOCTOR AOTO!!


WANNA DRINK WITH ME? HMM?
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. HERE! COME POUR ME SAKE
HO HO HO! YOUR BEAUTY DOES LIVE UP TO YOUR FAME
GRRRR
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE ONLY 14 AND STILL A VIRGIN?
DIRTY OLD LOUT
EH?
OPEN
FOUL BREATH!
I FEEL LIKE PUKING, SIR.
EXCUSE ME.

WHAT IS THIS?
!!
USAGI, SIR. I JUST MOVED FROM SHIMABARA DISTRICT OF KYOTO*.
USUGUMO-OIRAN IS HAVING A MILD FEVER. I VOLUNTEER TO BE HERE AS A SUBSTITUTE WHILE SHE IS TAKING A MEDICINE
SIR.
KIKU-NOSU-KE
AHA! ANOTHER ENCHAN-TRESS.
EXCE-LLENT! COME COME!

*Shimmabara is the red light district of Kyoto, in the same sense as Yoshiwara to Edo/Tokyo

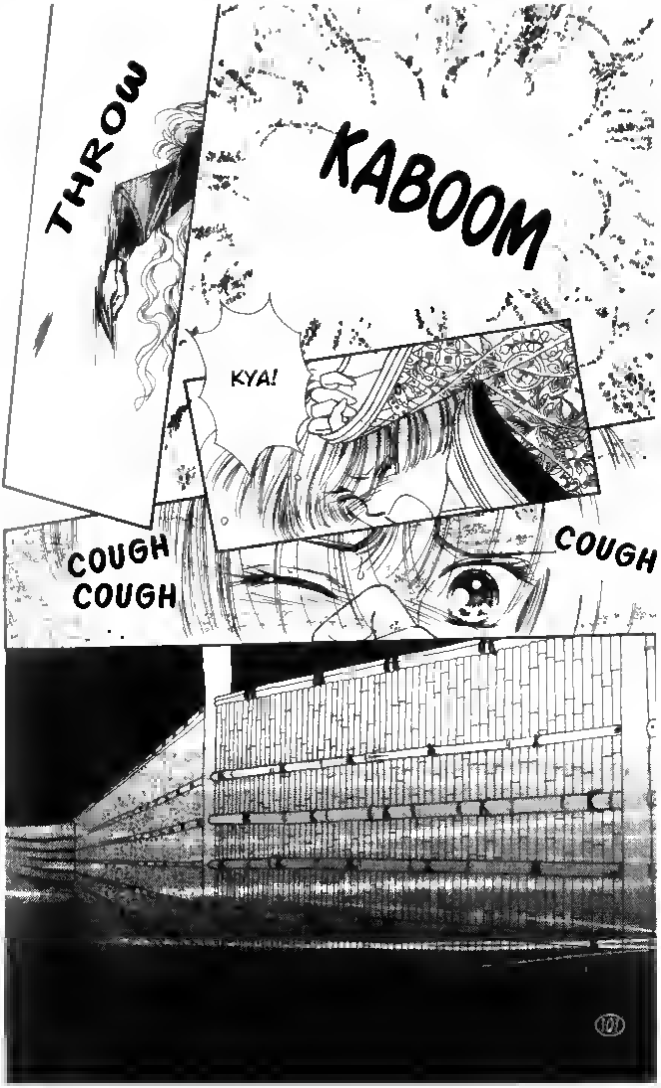

WELL.. OIRAN, NOW GO TAKE THE MEDI-CINE.
BUT ...
KIKU..
PLEASE HURRY.
USAGI, WHEN DID YOU JOIN MIURA'S?
THE OWNER DIDN'T MENTION ANOTHER CHARMER LIKE YOU.
HO HO HO ...
THE CUP, PLEASE.

HERE
RISE
LET ME POUR IT FOR YOU.
BUT YOU MUST PROMISE TO BOTTOM UP, PLEASE.
KIKU-NOSU-KE
I NEVER HAVE ANY INTEN-TION TO BE IN YOUR DEBT

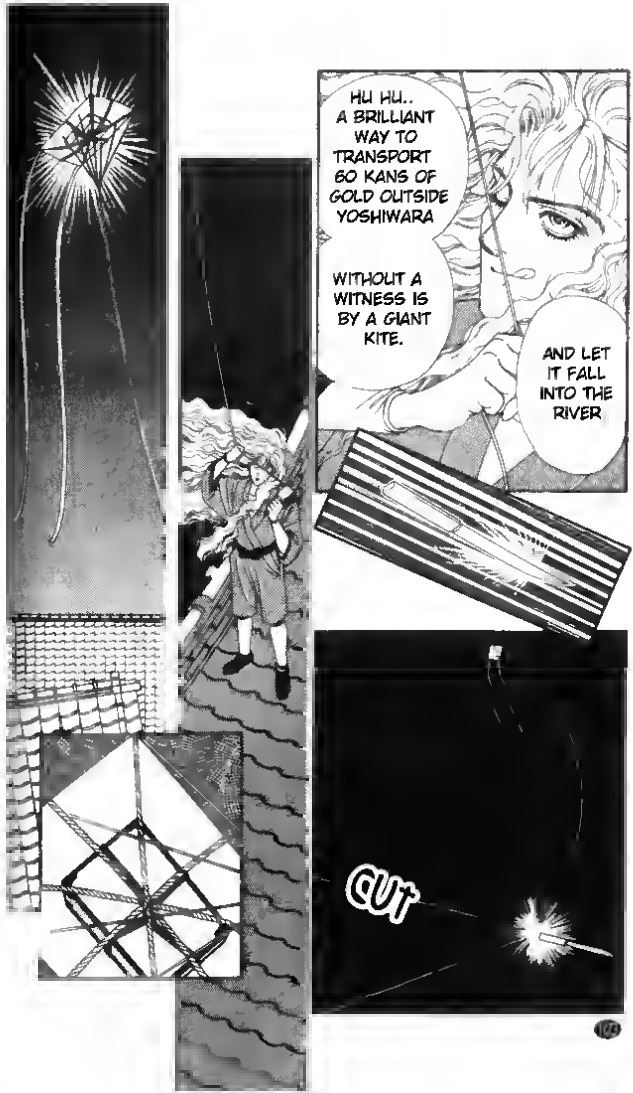
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
WHOOW!
THIS FEELS SO GOOD.

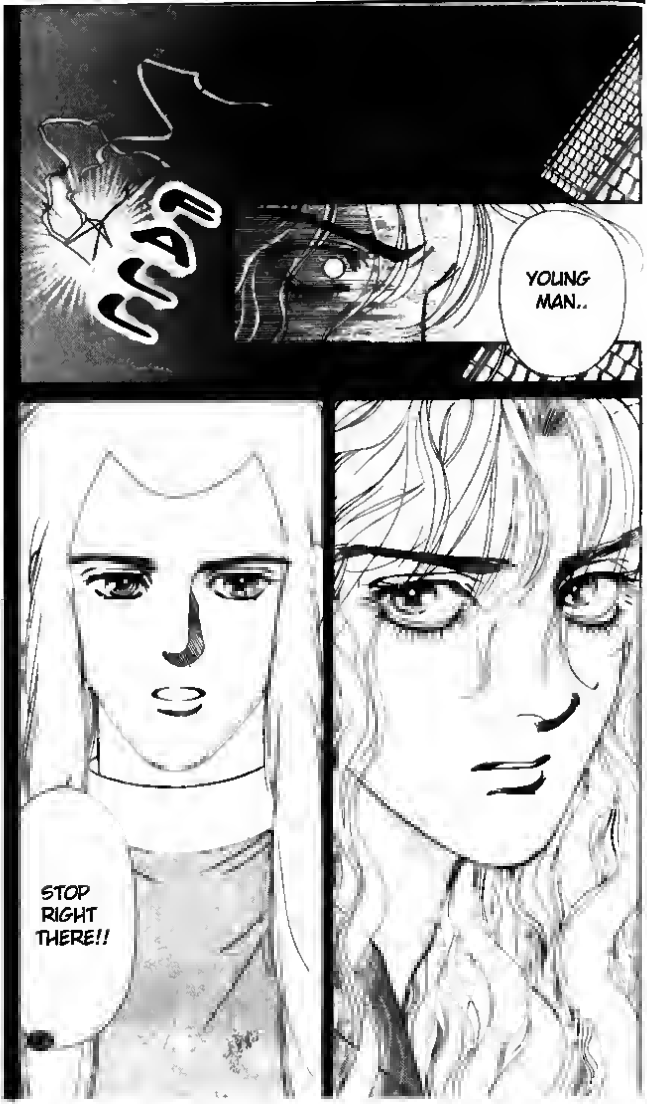
DON'T YOU AGREE?
15,000 RYO WORTH OF GOLD
I'LL COLLECT IT.
D..
DE..
DE..MON!!

KIKUNO-SUKE!!
BAM
HIS LORD-SHIP HAS FAINTED, SIR.
KIKUNO-SUKE.. YOU'RE THE GOLDEN HAIRED DEMON IN THE NEWS!
THE CRUEL CRIME YOU HAVE CAUSED,
YOUR PENALTY IS DECA-PITATION, YOU KNOW?
IF THEY CATCH ME, OF COURSE.
BUT NOT IN THE MILLION YEARS!


THROW
KABOOM
KYA!
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
101

KIKUNO-SUKE..
I..
BUT PLEASE ..
STOP THE KILLINGS.
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE A CRIMINAL BY NATURE.


HU HU..
A BRILLIANT WAY TO TRANSPORT 60 KANS OF GOLD OUTSIDE YOSHIWARA
WITHOUT A WITNESS IS BY A GIANT KITE.
AND LET IT FALL INTO THE RIVER
CUT


YOUNG MAN..
STOP RIGHT THERE!!

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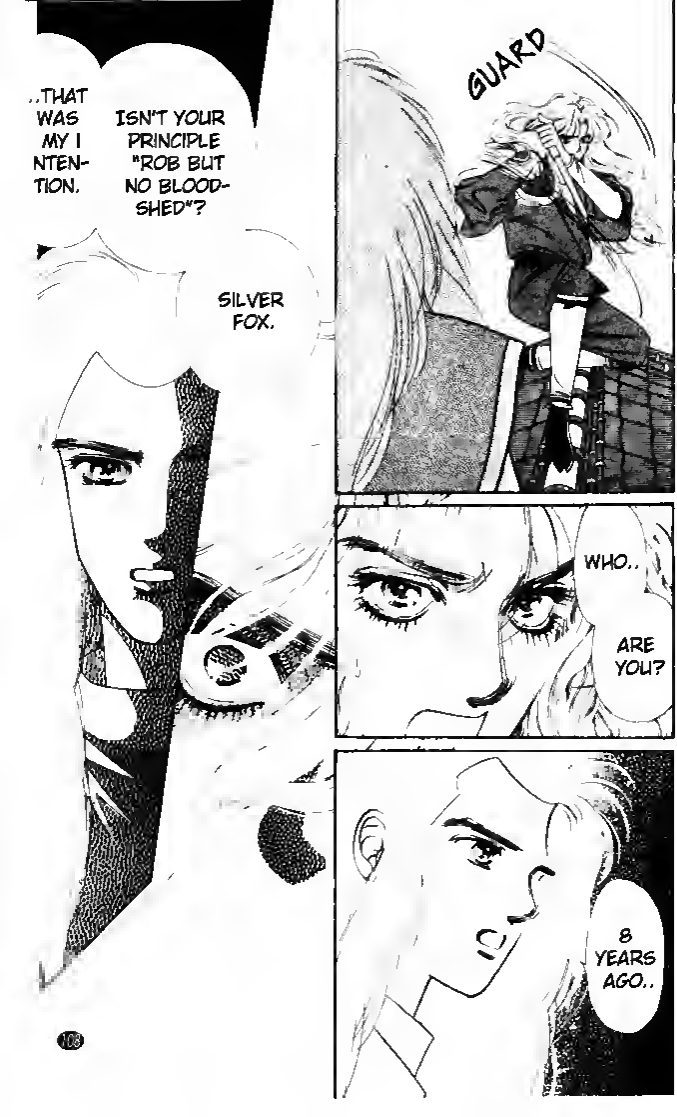
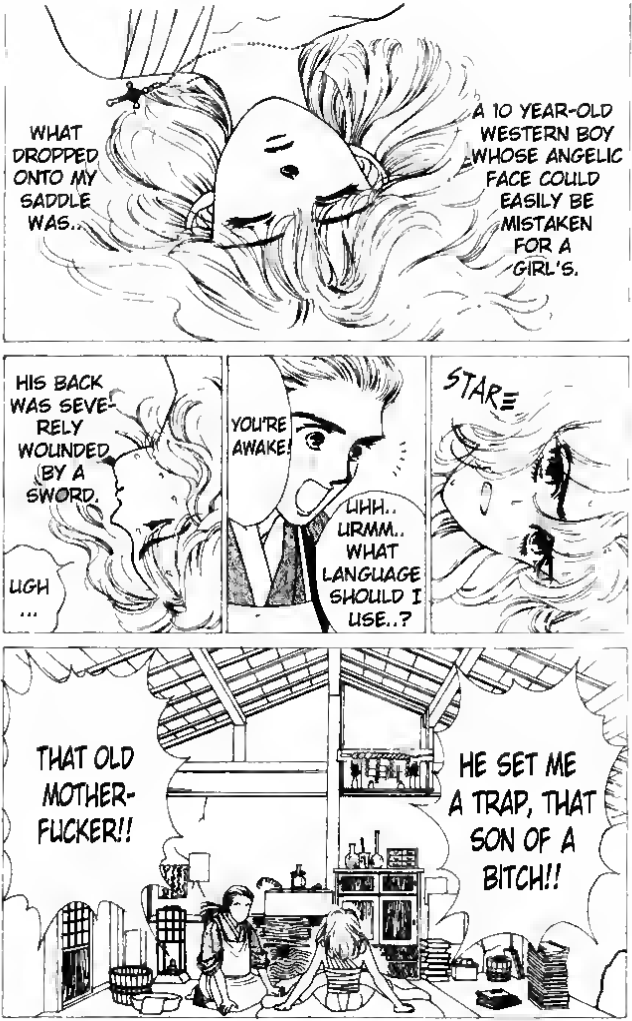
This manga is to be read from Left to Right

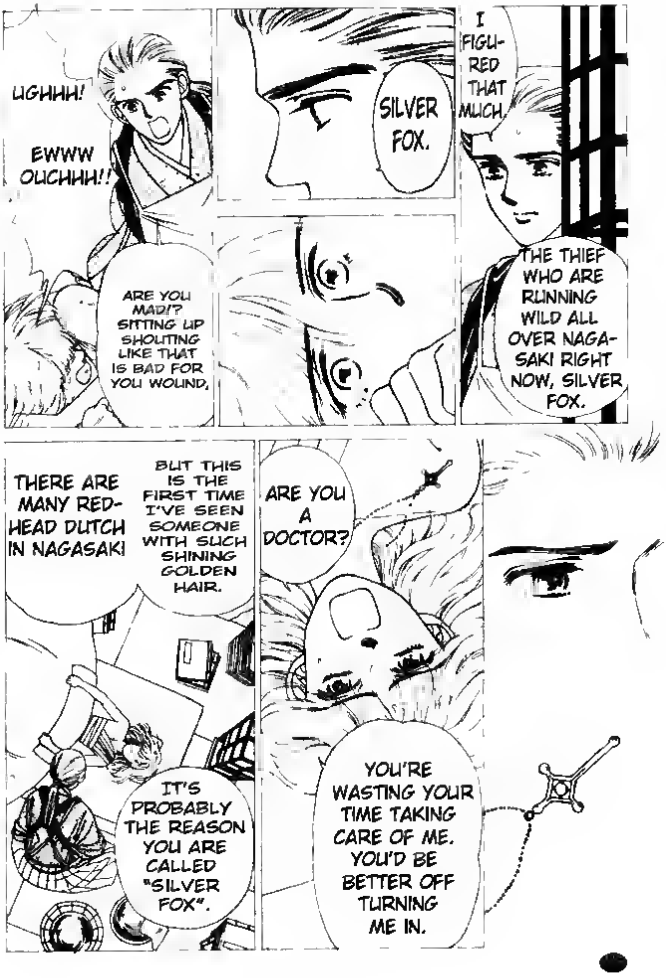
THE KITE MIGHT HAVE FALLEN ONTO THE MIDDLE OF GOJUKENDO*
CREATING A RIOT AMONG YOSHIWARA INCOMING GUESTS.
IF YOU ARE AIMING FOR MY PILLAGE, THAT WAS A STUPID THING TO DO.
HAH!
WHO ARE YOU TO TELL ME TO STOP!

Translator note: *Gojukendo = The bridge across the moat connecting Yoshiwara's entrance and the outside world


..THAT WAS MY INTENTION.
ISN'T YOUR PRINCIPLE "ROB BUT NO BLOODSHED"?
SILVER FOX.
GUARD
WHO.. ARE YOU?
8 YEARS AGO..

GALLOP
GALLOP
RUSTLE
THUD
UWAAA!!
WHEN I WAS A MEDICAL STUDENT IN NAGASAKI.
I SAVED YOU.
GALLOP
GALLOP
GALLOP
GALLOP
NEIGH
NEIGH
WHOA!
WHOA, WHOA!!
WHAT IS THIS!?


WHAT DROPPED ONTO MY SADDLE WAS..
A 10 YEAR-OLD WESTERN BOY WHOSE ANGELIC FACE COULD EASILY BE MISTAKEN FOR A GIRL'S.
HIS BACK WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED BY A SWORD.
UGH ...
YOU'RE AWAKE!
UHH.. URMM.. WHAT LANGUAGE SHOULD I USE..?
STARE
THAT OLD MOTHER-FUCKER!!
HE SET ME A TRAP, THAT SON OF A BITCH!!


UGHHH!
EWWW OUCHHH!!
ARE YOU MAD!? SITTING UP SHOUTING LIKE THAT IS BAD FOR YOU WOUND.
SILVER FOX.
I FIGURED THAT MUCH.
THE THIEF WHO ARE RUNNING WILD ALL OVER NAGASAKI RIGHT NOW, SILVER FOX.
THERE ARE MANY RED-HEAD DUTCH IN NAGASAKI
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SOMEONE WITH SUCH SHINING GOLDEN HAIR.
IT'S PROBABLY THE REASON YOU ARE CALLED "SILVER FOX".
ARE YOU A DOCTOR?
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME TAKING CARE OF ME. YOU'D BE BETTER OFF TURNING ME IN.

RUN AWAY.
SILVER FOX.
MAKE A SAFE ESCAPE,
AND LIVE YOUR LIFE.
YOUR VICTIMS WERE ALWAYS SOME SELFISH MERCHANTS WITH NOTORIOUS REPUTATION.
AND FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, YOU NEVER HARM ANYONE.
JUDGING FROM YOUR AGE, I DON'T THINK YOUR MOTIVE WAS PURE GREED.

I SEE..
YOU WERE THAT DOCTOR.
TO LIVE.
I WOULD LIKE YOU
I HAVE ONLY ONE BUSI-NESS WITH YOU.
STAY AWAY FROM USUGUMO.
IF YOU ARE ONE OF THEM,
NEXT TIME, YOU WILL NOT WALK OUT OF HERE THAT EASILY.

WELL, WELL
ONE OF THEM?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
GRAB
DON'T PLAY DUMB!
LEAP
!
SFX: RIP
YOU .. TATTOO ..?

AREN'T YOU THE ONLY ONE
RIGHT ..
WHO KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED BENEATH THIS TATTOO..!?
!?
AHRI
W..
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!?

WHISTLE

THUD
DOCTOR!

THE ASSAULT OF OUMI SHOP RESIDENCE IN THE NEWS,
I KILLED ONLY OUMI YATAHEI, THE OWNER.
THE SLAUGHTER AFTERWARDS MUST BE SOMEONE ELSE'S IDEA TO FRAME ME UP.
MY PRINCIPLE IS STILL INTACT.
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO HAVE FAITH IN ME.
CONSIDER THAT A PAYBACK FOR 8 YEARS AGO.
SO LONG!!

SON OF A BITCH!
WHAT KIND OF A THANK YOU WAS THAT!?
KIKUNO-SUKE'S?
LACQUER-WARE PILL-BOX WITH A CROSS SIGN...

8 years ago, that night
THEY TORTURED THOSE CHRISTIAN-CONVERT WOMEN AND EXPECTED ME TO CURE THEM JUST TO THROW THE GIRLS INTO BROTHELS AFTERWARDS! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!!
AOTO, CALM DOWN!!
The reason I was racing the horse like crazy was..
THUD
SHE'S NO USE IN THIS CONDITION.
IF WE CAN'T SELL HER TO A BROTHEL, DISPOSE HER.
YOU, MEDICAL STUDENT, EASE HER PASSAGE, WILL YA?
HA HA
NO! I HATE THAT JOB!
To leave Nagasaki
In that good-luck charm bag

Contained a lock of shining golden hair

The face structure of a dead Christian woman

was hauntingly similar to the silver fox boy's

If the injustice in this world

only exists to devour people like a tsunami

Then live on, Silver fox!

At least let me give you a chance.

If you can swim off this horrible ocean, then you deserve to be alive.

That was my wish that day.

Translator note. Tsunami = Tidal wave

Absolutely incredible! Usugumo-oiran snubbed Daimyo Kaga
T.. TAKAO..
THAT WAS NOT "MODERATION", IT'S CALLED "INCOMPETENCE"!
OH MY GOD! HAVE YOU ALL GONE INSANE!?
15,000 RYO! YOU KNOW! 15,000 RYO!!
IF I WERE HER, I'D TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL.
MAKE SURE I GET WHAT I DESERVE FIRST, THEN ESCAPE IN STYLE!

OH, BOTHER!
IF USUGUMO IS A DELICATE CRYSTAL RECEPTACLE THAT WAS SPARKLINGLY WELL-POLISHED,
BUT THE WATER IS PRISTINE, THE MOON IS STILL SHINING BRIGHT.
AND THAT IS THE TRUTH OF THE HEART OF THIS TAKAO-SAN.
CHINK
REFLECTING VARIOUS FACES OF MEN ON THE SURFACE EVERY NIGHT,
THEN I'M A BRIMFUL POND,
WHEN SHE HEARD THAT YOU'D FUMED OFF TO CONFRONT THE DAIMYO BY YOURSELF,
SHE HASTILY DROVE AWAY ALL OF HIS FOLLOWERS TO BE ENTERTAINED IN ANOTHER WING,
TO BUY USUGUMO-CHAN SOME MORE TIME ...
EVEN TAKAO-SAN SAID SO..

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
TAKAO-SAN,
YOU'RE AWE-SOME!
ARGH
USU-GUMO
YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME AGAIN!
NO,
I REALLY THINK YOU'RE SO AWE-SOME.
SHUT UP!
ONLY DOC-TOR AOTO,
I'LL NOT SURREN-DER HIM TO YOU!!

CHATTER CHATTER
OH MY GOD, SHE'S DECLARED WAR!
TAKAO-SAN REALLY HAS HER HEART SET ON DOCTOR AOTO.
OPEN
IDIOT!
Beware of the fire
IF IT'S NOT FUNNY, THEN DON'T LAUGH!
HMM?
TAT-SAN, ISN'T THE CREST ON THE PACKAGE DOCTOR AOTOS'?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S A GIFT FROM THE DOCTOR TO USUGUMO-OIRAN.

I HEARD IT'S A COLLECTION OF COSMETICS
AHA..
oh yeah?
I get it Everyone is jealous of me
Owari's
SWEEP
AND..
ENVIOUS
THE COSMETICS WOULD BE HAPPIER TO ASSIST ME,
NOT THE BABY USUGUMO.
Owari's shoe store
IT SEEMS THAT THE ENEMY IS MAKING ITS MOVE
YES, SIR

...IS THE PERSON NAMED KIKUNOSUKE ONE OF THEM?
HE HASN'T REVEALED IT YET.
I'LL NEED TO INVESTIGATE SOME MORE.
DON'T BE RECKLESS AOTO.
Sweep Sweep
YES, SIR.
Miura
OH DOCTOR AOTO! PLEASE COME IN.
USUGUMO-OIRAN HAS BEEN WAITING FOR YOU ALL DAY.
HI DOCTOR,
OH, THE GIFT PACKAGE ARRIVED THIS MORNING.
I ASKED TAKAO-DAYUU TO PASS IT TO USUGUMO-CHAN.

WHERE IS TAKAO-SAN!?
OH?
JUST A MOMENT AGO, SHE..
USUGUMO!!
HOW ABOUT IN HER ROOM?
GIFT?
BUT I DIDN'T...
DOCTOR,
YOU'VE ARRIVED.

BAM!
TAKAO-SAN!!
TAKAO-SAN!!
DOCTOR..?

SNIFF
POISON!
THIS RED PIGMENT IS POISONOUS.
HUH?
SPIT!
TAKAO!!
SLAP
SLAP
TAKAO!
DO YOU HEAR ME!!?

RUSTLE
WE MUST KEEP HER BODY WARM!!
I SUCKED THE BLOOD OUT TO CLEAR HER BREATH PASSAGE.
IT'S ALRIGHT. THE POISON HASN'T SPREAD YET.
WILL HEAT SOME WATER!!
UH.. I..
RUSTLE

I CAN'T STAND WATCHING THEM
EVEN THOUGH..
AOTO-SAN IS A DOCTOR.
MY HEART IS ON FIRE.
IS THIS LOVE?

Usugumo..
if one day
I have always
stayed true to
that promise.
If when you
meet up with him,
your heart and body..
are still pure,
if you have not
indulged yourself i
n the stream of filth.
you get to
see your long
lost father.
The darkness
of your life
will come to
an end.
Your
pure
heart
may change
the course
of your life.

MOM'S LAST WORDS..
STILL REMAIN A PUZZLE
Haven't I sworn to solve that puzzle?
I SWORE NOT TO
I..
ENTANGLE MYSELF IN LOVE.
The time Usugumo would learn that love
is in fact a double-edged sword
was approaching very soon.

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CREDITS

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This manga is to be read from Left to Right

The nocturnal intruders who caused a disturbance to Edo's peaceful nights.
Come on. Introduce yourselves.
御用
御用
御用
御用
ALL THOSE ACCUSATIONS, AND YOU STILL EXPECT US TO TAMELY INTRODUCE OURSELVES? IRONIC!

SEPARATED FROM PARENTS SINCE 4 YEARS OLD, EARNING A LIVING AS AN INGENIOUS THIEF,
BENTENKOSO KIKUNOSUKE, AKA GOLDEN-HAIRED DEMON, IS ME.
MY TURN, A STRONG-WILLED COURTESAN GROWING UP IN YOSHIWARA PLEASURE QUARTERS,
NEVER BOWS DOWN TO EVIL, BUT IN THE REGION OF HEARTS.
THE PIERCING PAIN HAS ALREADY TAKEN ITS TOLL HERE.
USUGUMO-DAYUU, 14 YEARS OLD.
LAST, CONCEALING A COLD INDIFFERENT LIFE, HIDING UNDER SIMPLE CLOTHES AND A MASK OF A FAMOUS DOCTOR,
WHO WOULD KNOW I AM A SPY SERVANT.
I AM AOTO TOICHIRO.
THREE AS ONE.

LOOK AT THAT.
THE CASTLE IS AS GLORIOUS AS ALWAYS.
BUT IF WE ..
YEAH
ME TOO!
GIVE ME ONE, GIVE ME.
NO PROBLEM. ONE BY ONE.
BLOW
BLOW
LOOK AT IT THROUGH A SOAP BUBBLE,
IT BECOMES A THOUSAND TIMES MORE BEAUTIFUL.

YOU'RE RIGHT! THIS IS AMAZING!!
DO YOU KNOW WHY THE BUBBLES ARE SO BEAUTIFUL?
THAT'S BECAUSE..
POP
THEY'RE EMPTY.

OH!
KIKUJIRO-SAN IS BACK.
WHISPER
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY IS EVERYONE GATHERING AT KUMA-SAN'S HOUSE?
OH, KIKU NOJI?
COME ON IN.
I HAVE BEEN A BOTHER TO YOU WITH MANY THINGS.
THAT IDIOT KUMAKOH, HE'S BEEN ILL FOR TOO LONG.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S REACHED HIS LIMIT.
LET ME THANK YOU ONE LAST TIME.

YOU MUST NOT EARN VERY MUCH SELLING THOSE BUBBLES. BUT ONE TIME, YOU ALLOTTED 2 PRECIOUS RYO TO BUY ME TURNIPS.
THANK YOU.
YOU MAY BE SECRETIVE AND STRANGE, BUT YOU HAVE A GOOD HEART.
KUMA-SAN, DON'T GIVE UP.
WAIT FOR ME. I'LL ASK THE BEST DOCTOR IN EDO, AOTO-SAMA, TO TAKE A LOOK AT YOU.
DON'T BOTHER
DOCTORS AND MEDI-CINE ARE NO GOOD FOR ME ..
I WANT TO DIE LIKE THIS.
KUMA
KUMA-SAN!
KUMA-KOH!!
THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT TO DO BEFORE I DIE..
I USED TO DREAM ABOUT IT, MEALS FORGOTTEN.. BUT I GUESS IT ALL ENDS HERE.

I WANT ..
PLEASE TELL ME WHAT IT IS, KUMA-SAN.
I WANT ..
TO MEET..
USUGUMO-OIRAN OF MIURA BROTHEL IN YOSHI-WARA
ONCE IN MY LIFE...

I SHOULD ERASE..
ERASE DOCTOR AOTO FROM MY MIND.
I WILL STOP PAYING YOU VISITS FOR A WHILE.
BECAUSE I HAVE TO CHECK UP ON TAKAO-SAN.

FATHER, MOTHER..
WHERE ARE YOU, FATHER?
THE CITY IS SO LIVELY
IT BORDERS A DRUGGING POISON
TO-DAY I AM..
STILL AS LONELY AS AL-WAYS

THE DAY FATHER AND I MEET AND INTRODUCE OURSELVES TO EACH OTHER
IS FATHER SO IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET?
MAY BE THE END OF THE DARKNESS OF MY LIFE.
MOTHER TOLD ME THAT.
SHE MADE IT SOUND LIKE..
HE IS AN IMPORTANT PERSON LIKE A SHOGUN*
WHAT ARE YOU..
THINKING ABOUT?
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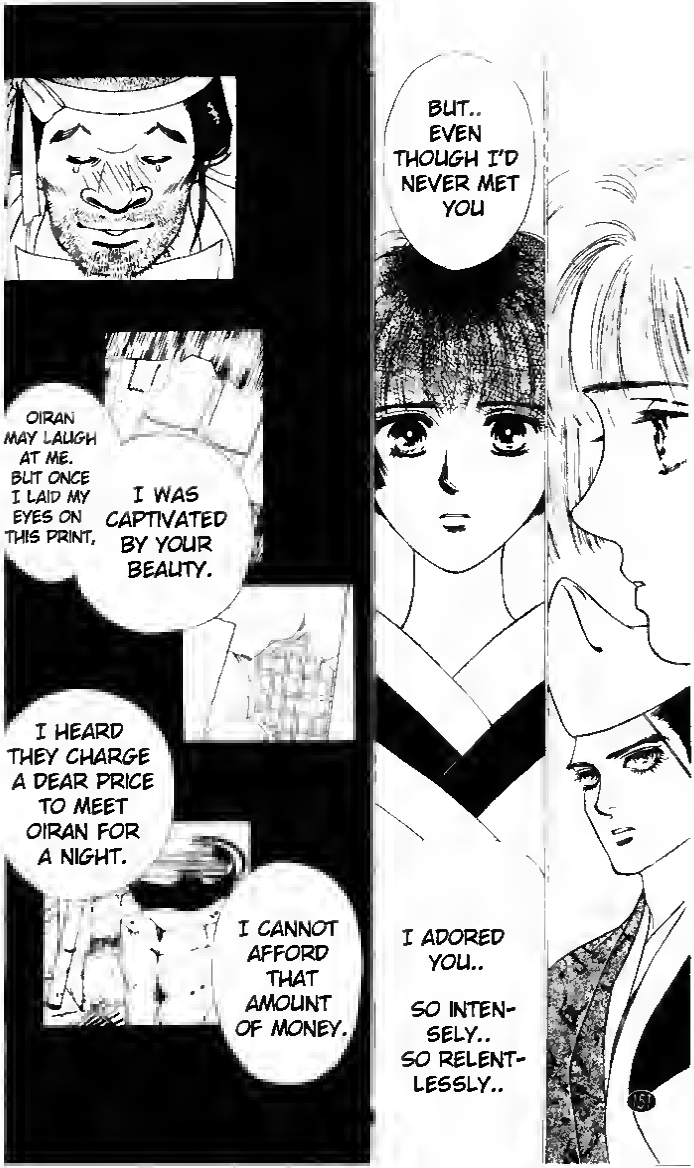
Translator note = *Shogun = the highest military feudal lord* During Edo era Shoguns were the ones with the real power to run the country, not the emperors

*Chameshi = Rice cooked with tea.

KUMA-SAN, I'M COMING IN.
I'VE BROUGHT THE BEST-QUALITY MEDICINE WITH ME.
SLIDE
O..
OOO
O...

OIRAN!?
UH..
YES
HOW IN THE WORLD IS OIRAN HERE?
DAZZLED
HUFF HUFF
K.. KIKU-NOJI!
BRING OUT THE PRINT IN THE CABINET!
KIKU-NOSUKE, WHAT'S GOING ON?
THERE IT IS! THAT'S RIGHT!!
THIS IS NO MISTAKE..
SHE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE PRINT!!
I THOUGHT
I WOULD NEVER GET TO MEET OIRAN IN MY LIFE.
SNIFFLE


BUT.. EVEN THOUGH I'D NEVER MET YOU
I ADORED YOU..
SO INTENSELY.. SO RELENTLESSLY..
OIRAN MAY LAUGH AT ME. BUT ONCE I LAID MY EYES ON THIS PRINT,
I WAS CAPTIVATED BY YOUR BEAUTY.
I HEARD THEY CHARGE A DEAR PRICE TO MEET OIRAN FOR A NIGHT.
I CANNOT AFFORD THAT AMOUNT OF MONEY.

HONORING ME WITH YOUR VISIT AT MY SHABBY PLACE,
YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE.
I DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS IN MY LIFE ANYMORE ...
DON'T SAY THAT!
THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IS ME.
TO GET SO MUCH LOVE FROM YOU...
PLEASE DON'T SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT, KUMA-SAN.
GET WELL SOON.
AND COME TO YOSHI-WARA,
TO BUY ME..
NOT WITH MONEY, BUT WITH YOUR HEART.

EVEN ONE-SIDED, IT'S A GREAT FEELING
TO BE LOVED BY SOMEONE
BOOM BOOM
KIKUNOSUKE, DON'T YOU HAVE SOME-ONE YOU LOVE?
CHATTER
BOOM BOOM
HAVING ONE WOULD BE A NUISANCE IN MY PROFE-SSION.
THE PERSON USUGUMO LOVES,
IS DOCTOR AOTO, ISN'T IT?
!!

N..NO! DOCTOR ISN'T..
YOU'D BETTER GIVE UP ON ACTO.
EH..?
HE'S GOT SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS GOING ON
RECENTLY, I HEARD TAKAO-DAYUU WAS POISONED BY THE RED LIPSTICK.
THAT LIPSTICK WAS MEANT FOR YOU, USUGUMO.
THE PERSON KILLED BY THAT POISON WAS SUPPOSED TO BE YOU.
HOW!?
HOW DID YOU KNOW THIS, KIKUNOSUKE?
NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE NETWORK OF KIKUNOSUKE, THE PHANTOM THIEF.

THE PEOPLE WITH THE MALICIOUS INTENT
CHATTER CHATTER
ARE PROBABLY THOSE WHOM AOTO CALLED 'THEM'.
CHATTER CHATTER
CHATTER CHATTER
THE REASON WHY HE IS YOUR REGULAR CLIENT AND ALWAYS AROUND
IS TO PROTECT YOU FROM 'THEM'
CHATTER CHATTER
POSSIBLY AN ORDER FROM SOMEONE ELSE...
WHICH MEANS..
CHATTER CHATTER
Be careful
THAT YOU MUST BE VERY PRECIOUS TO AOTO AND HIS CROWD

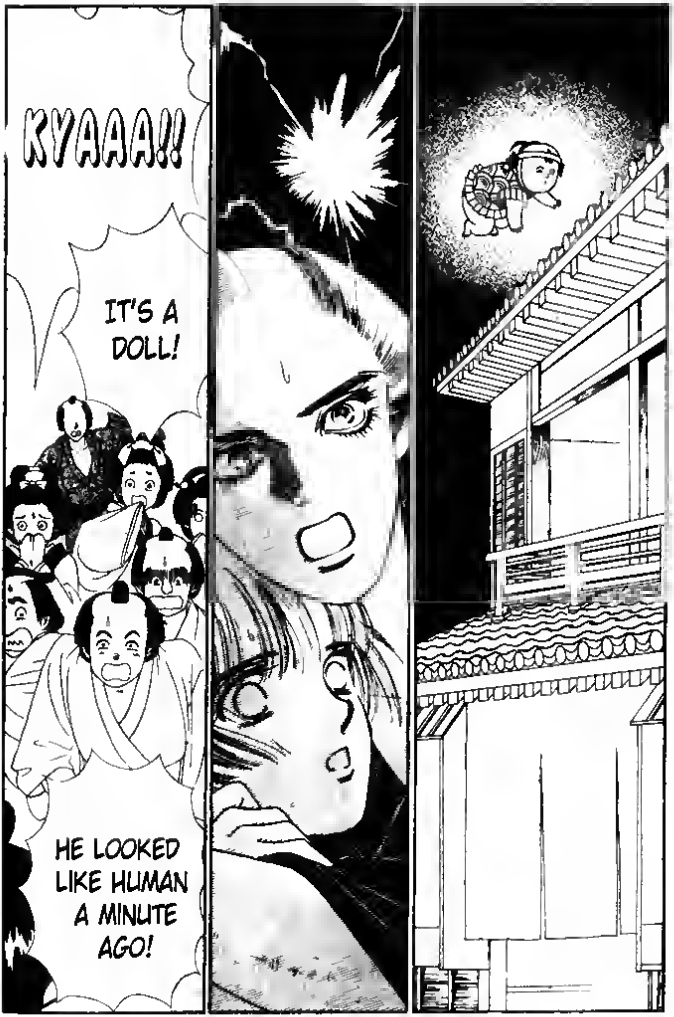
Chatter
NO!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
Chatter
H..HOW CAN I BE THAT PRECIOUS TO ANYONE?
BELIEVE IT OR NOT. IT'S YOUR CALL.
Chatter
BUT YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL.
Chatter
AOTO GETTING CLOSE TO YOU
WAS NOT BECAUSE HE'S LOOKING FOR A ROMANCE.
STOP SAYING SOMETHING UNREASONABLE!
DOCTOR..
DOCTOR'S BECOME MY REGULAR GUEST
BECAUSE HE..
BECAUSE HE LOVES ME.
USUGUMO!!

IT'S NOT TRUE!!
CHATTER CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER CHATTER
WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO HURT ME!?
WHY!?
CHATTER CHATTER
CHATTER CHATTER

DOES DOCTOR AOTO KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T!?
CHATTER CHATTER
CHATTER CHATTER
HEY!
WAIT UP
USUGUMO!
CLUK CLUK

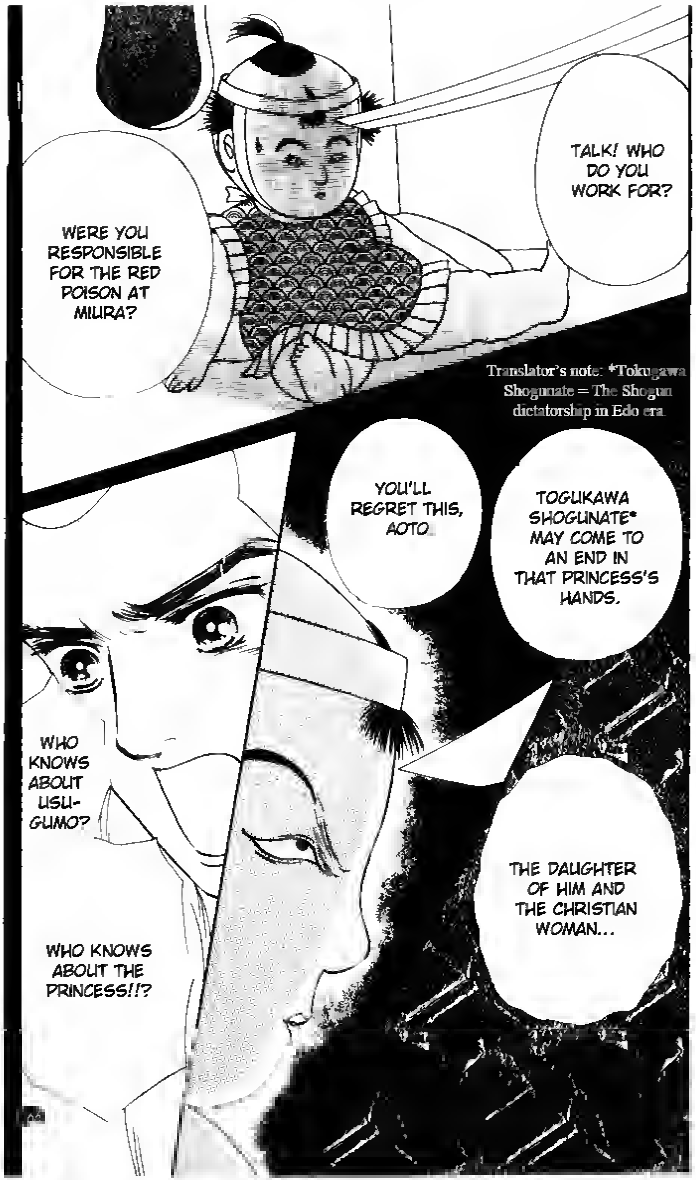
THUD
CLATTER
DAMN IT!

CLATTER
KYAAA!!
THROW
THUD


KYAAA!!
IT'S A DOLL!
HE LOOKED LIKE HUMAN A MINUTE AGO!

USUGUMO
BLACK MAGIC USER..?
THE PEOPLE WHO ARE TRYING TO KILL YOU
ARE PROBABLY THESE PERSISTENT UNDEADS!!

FWWP
ARGHHH!!


TALK! WHO DO YOU WORK FOR?
WERE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RED POISON AT MIURA?
Translator's note: *Tokugawa Shogunate = The Shogun dictatorship in Edo era.
YOU'LL REGRET THIS, AOTO.
TOGUKAWA SHOGUNATE* MAY COME TO AN END IN THAT PRINCESS'S HANDS.
WHO KNOWS ABOUT USU-GUMO?
THE DAUGHTER OF HIM AND THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN...
WHO KNOWS ABOUT THE PRINCESS!!?

HUH?
CLACK
CANNOT EXIST!
SFX: KABOOM
KA-BOOM

DOCTOR
FUU
FUU
WHO ARE YOU ..?
TALK TO ME .

WHAT.. WHAT IS GOING ON!?
WHO..
WHO.. WHO AM I?